

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJ7-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 09:23:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not yet married. Was due to get married this year.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We were due to get married in Northern Ireland in June this year with a humanist wedding. Due COVID-19 we cancelled our wedding and moved to England to be closer to my family.

Now that we are in England we cannot have only a humanist wedding need to have a registrar. This legal barrier prohibits the legal wedding we want.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As detailed, we were due to have a humanist wedding in Northern Ireland this June. We have had to move to England only to discover that the sort of wedding we truly want to follows our beliefs is not allowed and would need a registrar to make our wedding legally binding.

This coupled with the monopoly on wedding venues and their exorbitant costs in England means that our £5000 wedding (license, humanist costs, venue costs, food for 100 people) for a wedding in Northern Ireland will now cost twice as much (often 3 times as much) to have a wedding of a similar standing. Needless to say, we have had to cancel our wedding indefinitely due to all of this. This in term, has impacted my mental health.

I want to marry my partner the way that we want and not have to pay a princes ransom for it.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's an outdated law

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In a modern world makes complete sense. Doing it online in the first instance and then having an interview, possibly when you collect your marriage schedule, makes sense.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

See above. When marriage schedule is collected.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes. With technology, remote interviews can be taken. To help with concerns make it a requirement that the interview must be completed by video interview.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Many people get married in destinations such as Italy and they can register to marry there and not be a resident. The same should apply in England and Wales.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a pandemic or another lockdown this would give couples an opportunity to reschedule within the year of notice without the headache of contacting local government.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the Officiant can't attend then a substitute should absolutely be able to complete the wedding.

Please share your views below:

Yes. If the Officiant can not complete the wedding on the agreed upon date, then the couple should not be penalised because of it.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be free to choose who they marry, how they marry and where they marry.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This should be the choice of the couple marrying, not the church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This is an archaic and outdated mandate. A couple should not have to prove they are fit to be married to one another.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This should again be down to the couple and the relationship they have with the church.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should have the same civil preliminaries, this makes legal requirements more streamlined

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as no as the officiants extend into other beliefs such as humanist.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a member of the humanist society, I want to get married by a humanist celebrant/officiant without needing a registrar

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Humanist

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Point 1: some belief systems do not require people to meet. As a humanist, I have a valued belief system and I am a member of that organisation. Rather than 'meet' perhaps it should be an organisation that can demonstrate its core values and have a determined amount of members.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. If an organisation promotes unlawful purpose, they should not be allowed to conduct weddings

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes. A registrar has the ability to conduct a wedding because of the position they hold within the council, same should apply elsewhere.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will also offer protection to a couple, they could search for their officiant to make sure they are legally registered to marry them. A system similar to Companies House perhaps.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 30:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed. Humanist Celebrants have to complete a course/qualification and are held accountable by the Humanist Society. The same should apply to all officiants.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage fees should not exceed those charged by the registrars office. These should be government guided but only include the officiants fees, not premise fees, travel expense etc.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a cap or clear pricing structure. Ie a fixed fee for being the Officiant set by government plus mileage and preparation time (getting to know the couple). But there should an option of additional services such as writing order of service, writing vows, etc with these being down to the discretion of the officiant and the couple.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a conflict of interest.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there are procedures in place to ensure they continue to carry out their role as Officiant in a legal and ethical fashion.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the choice of the couple where they marry.

Please share your views below:

It should be the choice of the couple.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Law should profit people getting married anyway. For example, if people was to marry in a church but are non religious they should legally able to, but it's up to the church if they will allow it.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be able to determine if a location is fit for purpose and guide the couple accordingly.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance only. It is down to the discretion of the officiant and/or the organisation they represent.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would give couples the chances to pick their location and officiant based on what they want.

Please share your views below:

The venue should be responsible for completing the process ie registering.

This could be managed in a simile way to Companies House. Each year the venue must complete a form and say they are still active etc. If they don't re-register annually their venue is removed from the list.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to parts 1 & 2.

No to part 3. Some people are estranged from one or both parents. Some parents are deceased. Perhaps, this could be the name of the witness, their relationship and how long they have known them.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Getting married should be done to the individual as long as they are of sound mind.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a shorter time limit imposed for the notice. If a person is declared terminal ill they should be able to give notice online, it should be check within 5 working days (including interview) and the notice period should be shorter too ie 14 days. This would allow 3 weeks for the schedule to be issued.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Completely agree.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes. It should be down to the couple marrying with the guidance of the officiant.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would work the same as selecting a venue.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Removing fees will allow the process to be quicker.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

As previously detailed, we cancelled our wedding in Northern Ireland due to Covid and are now living in England (again due to COVID). To have the humanist wedding we want at a similar venue in England we can't. Not only can't we have an purely humanist wedding, or get married outside, but venue priceS has tripled.

As such, we are in a position of not getting married at all (we are already cohabiting) or having a much smaller impersonal wedding.

At present all our plans remain cancelled, and yet I have my dream wedding dress hanging in a bag waiting to be worn. I am at a loss.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

2. The cost of venue hire is astronomical in England. To find a venue that charges less than £3000 (or a minimum number of guests to stay over night) is harder than finding the holy grail. This monopoly on venues is beyond unreasonable. The prices that can be charged would be a deposit on a mortgage. It's this level of pricing that creates a 'poor' mentality and encourages people to get into debt (often a lifetime's worth) just to have a wedding. Even a simple wedding.

5. Currently to have a Humanist wedding in a venue of choice we have to pay the humanist celebrant and the registrar. This alone can cost in the region of £1200. This is unfair and non-inclusive, teetering on discrimination.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

2. Being able to choose a venue of your choice gives the couple and not the venues control over where they want to get married and how much they want to spend. As previously mentioned, the cost of venue would equate to a deposit for a mortgage. The average price of a wedding in England in 2019 was approximately £32k. This is an obscene amount of money to spend and is creating an elitist/esquire element to weddings.

3. As detailed above, to have a humanist wedding we essentially have to pay twice; once for the humanist celebrant and once for the registrar.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Na

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

5. Getting married is deemed to be one of life's stressful moments, stress that comes from money and not being able to afford or have the legal stand point to have the wedding the couple wants. Stress can kill. It has been documented many times.  
This proposal implies a welcome change in the law. The onus is on what the couple marrying wants and establishes laws to support them.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJA-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 12:28:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

N/A

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Currently it is not possible to have a Christian same sex marriage in the Church of England. This is prevented by the quadruple lock. It is not possible for Christians to have a church wedding conducted by the established church in this country. This exemption needs to be removed.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage tourism happens in other parts of the world and has a benefit for the local economy. Why shouldn't a couple be able to get married at a place of their choice even if they have no connection with the place?

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Giving notice online is helpful for convenience.

An in person interview is essential, both to protect against forced marriages and to prevent fraudulent marriages. If one of the couple does not want to get married but may be under pressure, perhaps from their family an in person meeting could detect this. Also, marriages of convenience or using false documents could be detected.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Three working days. So an interview on a Friday afternoon cannot lead to a marriage on a Monday morning.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person interviews are more likely to raise concerns that may not be apparent from paperwork submissions.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, especially if notice can be given online.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This depends on how much information is made public. It is important that notice is made public, but who would decide what level of risk is appropriate to expose or conceal? Would the online notices be searchable, for example would an ex spouse or boyfriend / girlfriend be able to troll them as a result?

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Have to allow panning time for those who want a big wedding

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would mean that couples would have to find an officiant first, even if they changed it later. Getting registered should be the first step, even if there is a proposal that a named officiant had to be put on the schedule within a limited period of time.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense.

Please share your views below:

There should be other valid reasons, for example jury service, family bereavement, arrest, quarantine etc

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns are supposed to be the public notice to the community. If they are read in another country then the local community might not be given a reasonable opportunity to object.

I also think banns should go, everyone should go through a civil registration process.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand this. Does it mean that banns can be read in a disused / damaged church or that marriages can take place in a that church after banns elsewhere?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, they should be published everywhere that other notices are published.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Preferably the use of banns should be removed. A member of clergy who conducts fewer than one wedding a year is unlikely to be as good at spotting forged documents or a forced marriage as a trained registrar who does this all the time

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Best way to guard against fraudulent marriage

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This is the fairest and safest way to conduct marriage preliminaries. This way everyone is treated equally and certain groups do not have access to privilege and less likely to be taken advantage of.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ensures safety of all concerned

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples who want a faith element to their wedding should be allowed to have this with a registration officer

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be treated the same as other Christian denominations, where they have to be designated people and it is not automatic. The Church of England currently claims and defends its right to exclude some couples from church marriage. This exemption means that they will not marry same sex couples in church even though they are the established church in this country and same sex marriage is legal in this country. They can't have the automatic right to marry everyone and at the same time refuse to marry some couples. If they want the automatic right then they must commit to being willing to carry out each and every marriage which is legal. So they must give up the quadruple lock

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although I think it is better to licence individuals

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Would there be any requirement that this 20 was part of a larger e.g. national group? You want to avoid problems such as football fans who 'worship' weekly at their football match and devise a marriage service based around their club.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should be excluded. However the reasons should not be too broad. It could be argued that the Church of England should be excluded on these grounds due to its public policies on refusing to solemnise same sex marriages in church and the refusal to ordain those validly married. These are contrary to public policy.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, although it could cause extra administration

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Central register that standardises everything ensures processes are correct

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be criteria for acceptance, for example retired clergy, MP etc

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Basic duty of care

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the bare minimum

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, although it is not unreasonable for them to make a modest profit from their labour.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the first part, preventing conflict of interest. But there should be some limit on exorbitant fees. Perhaps a table of suggested fees would be suitable

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they are nominated by a faith organisation, then they should be doing it as part of the expression of their faith, so it would be a conflict to do it in as part of a non religious organisation. But doing it in a private capacity would not be a conflict.

1 allow

2 not allow

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But might have to define dignity and solemnity

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They know best what they expect from their nominees

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Necessary to maintain the integrity of the process

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is duty of care, so important

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a renewal period for the authorisation, to ensure training and quality

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Training is an essential part of it

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Witnessed consent is absolutely essential for a valid marriage

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With certain essential legal formalities

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Jewish and Quaker - yes

The Anglican church, as the established church in this country, cannot simply be allowed to do whatever it wants to do. It already discriminates against certain groups with respect to marriage. It needs to be willing to conduct all legal marriages and not simply do whatever it wants to do

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes it much more straightforward. So a poem that has some faith content or song words would be allowed or a favourite reading etc

Please share your views below:

Just that the balance of the service should be recognisably civil

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why propose this?

The religious service would not have a legal meaning, but it could have significant religious significance to the couple

It is what has helped those remarrying after divorce to have a religious ceremony when the church of England uses their opt out to refuse to marry the couple in church. Where the ceremony is not legally binding then the Church of England can exercise a 'pastoral accommodation' to have some sort of religious element to their commitment

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea that a marriage should be public is a good one. It was designed to help prevent false and invalid marriages - those who wanted to object could not be denied entry

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided it is safe

Please share your views below:

If people want to do it and it is legal and safe, then why not? Trespassing would not be allowed.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they are accessible on the day of the ceremony, then no problem

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For 1 and 2 there is already a lot of prohibiting of perfectly lawful and reasonable things. For 3, a civil wedding will not contradict the beliefs of the religious venue, but a non-religious one might. There needs to be some sort of opt out clause

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again sensible

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Eminently sensible

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Saves a lot of duplicated work. Good idea

Please share your views below:

The venues should be required to show that they meet the standards set out above in

We provisionally propose that guidance should be produced by the General Register Office to provide advice to officiants on how to assess whether a location is safe and dignified for a wedding.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Adding the names and occupations of parents should be optional. They are not necessary for a valid marriage. Some couples may be marrying against the wishes of their families and may find having their names on the paperwork to be painful.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Welsh is important but not everyone speaks it

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In 4 the religious governing authority may have given their consent for same sex marriages but they also require the individual church to opt in. For example the Baptist Church. Currently an individual church registers for same sex marriage and without this the marriage should be void. Perhaps 4 could be slightly reworded for local situations

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 yes

2 no, witnesses are a help in preventing forced marriages

3 these things should be done and should be essential, especially the registration. Perhaps a time limit, voidable if not completed within 30 days of the wedding date

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



As answered above

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No problem

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has legal implications and these should not be imposed upon a couple

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Forced marriages are not always easy to get out of

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Their actions have legal consequences for the couple so it should be an offence

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided this can be done in timely manner

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Much simpler and fairer

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be very useful at times like this. Very sensible idea

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very reasonable

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, these need to be planned events not spur of the minute events where the formalities might not be easy to adhere to

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They might need to registration document to book the cruise ship wedding. As long as they specify that it is their intent, allow them to add the details after a period of time.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Maintains legal requirements

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiant is not valid, nor is the marriage

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No idea

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible idea

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only fair

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

If it is below cost, who pays for the travel?

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perfectly reasonable and ordinary suggestion

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This ensures it is fair

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Costs may go beyond merely travel costs and should include the time of the officials etc

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be paid for all the time they spend on the event

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A modest amount of profit should be allowed, if these are non essential. If the coupe choose to have these discretionary services then the cost could allow for some profit

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is fair

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be flexibility. Terminally ill does not always mean that death is imminent nor that the person cannot pay some modest sum

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perfectly fair

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current law certainly stops same sex couples having religious church weddings. The Church of England does not even allow blessings to take place after a civil marriage. It also has a series of prohibitions and sanctions on those who have a same sex marriage, ranging from losing their licence, to refusal to promote them to barring them from applying for ordination etc.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't feel able to comment on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The potential benefits might not be related to cost saving. It might be about allowing couples to marry in accordance with their beliefs and preferences

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Not able to comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Not able to comment

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The more regulations there are the more time has to be spent ensuring compliance

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This might streamline the process allowing for fairer and more cost effective process

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently many perfectly reasonable plans are not permitted

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This could make the process easier

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No idea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No idea

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Not able to comment

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJ3-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 13:08:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All my ceremonies have been postponed to next year but couples would like to have a legal wedding with a few guests now.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples would like to be married in their parents area rather than where they currently live.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes by Skype or Zoom with a back up of a personal interview if required

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Couples need to be happy with their choice of Officiant and get to know each other first. At the moment, Registrars can send anyone who is available to officiate which can be upsetting to the couple.

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Meet with the couple first and also check all documents.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes - it is a full commitment from both of them.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrants will require training to be able to officiate at a legal wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrants can include religion and humanist views in their ceremonies and also, more importantly spiritual views. I perform many Hand Fasting rituals.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Fully trained Celebrants should be able to legally marry couples. it is important that full training is given and that Celebrants have also have completed a fully recognised training course - Diploma in Celebrancy: Naming and Couples (QCF) from Civil Ceremonies Ltd

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should hold a Diploma in Celebrancy: Naming and Couples (QCF) and have performed many wedding ceremonies previously

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All religious ministers are paid by the church and Independent Celebrants need to be paid for the work they do. My ceremonies are in depth and personal and not just prewritten. I chat to the couple for up to two hours first, am in email and phone contact up to the ceremony then stay with the couple as long as they need me.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The legal ceremony can have a fixed price then Independent Celebrants can charge for added rituals such as Hand Fasting Candle or Flower Ceremonies.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As an Independent Celebrant, I offer spiritual and religious cermeonies as part of the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If Registrars feel that independent Celebrants are taking away their business they then have a conflict of interest and will stop us performing legal ceremonies.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Singing of hymns, saying prayers and all spiritual rites such as Hand Fasting

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I have performed wedding ceremonies in the couples favourite places, places that mean something to them. As long as they and the Celebrant is happy with the place then it should be allowed.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The couple and the officiant should approve the location

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any craft as long as the couple and the Celebrant are happy to do it

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would be good to include the name of the Officiant

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There is a demand for wedding ceremonies anywhere that is important to the couple.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrants are paid for all the work they do in creating a personal unique ceremony and should be paid accordingly

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

All my couples want to be married legally but they also want to have the choice of where the ceremony is held and for the ceremony to be personal to them.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of a legal wedding at a hotel, say, by a Registrar is high. It is also bland and definitely not personal. Independent Celebrants offer so much more for the same price!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I offer ceremonies on beaches, in woods, in cafes, in fact anywhere that is important to the couple. They regard the Registrar wedding as a legal necessity but no more than that. Combining the legal and a Celebrant ceremony is the way forward

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

More couples will get legally married if they are allowed to marry in a location of their choice with the Celebrant of their choice who will spend time making sure the ceremony is unique and personal to them.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We are one world and it is important to realise that couples are now marrying from different countries. I perform ceremonies for Japanese and Chinese couples that want a traditional type ceremony in this country

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples should be able to get married wherever they feel is important to them.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJQ-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 13:45:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Thames Steamers Limited

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]k

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants



Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Masters of domestic passenger vessels should be able to perform as officiant on board

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,

Please share your views below:

Domestic passenger vessels should be able to act as wedding venues

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJG-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 13:55:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

There was only very limited opportunity for personalisation in our Civil Ceremony, with the registration service, at an approved premises.

Although it was meaningful (because of our feelings for each other and because we wanted to be married) the ceremony felt very generic - even though at the time I was employed as a Superintendent Registrar by the Registration Service ( or maybe that was one of the reasons why I felt this way?) I knew that the person officiating had used EXACTLY the same script at all of their weddings! I even knew when the 'jokes' were coming!



### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My son is due to be married at a register office this weekend, they have had great difficulty in gaining information from the registrars and the restrictions that they have put in place, allegedly to ensure that the space is COVI-19 secure, seem excessive compared to other register offices.

Despite being limited to 6 guests, having the bare minimum of legal words and the ceremony being held in a waiting room (rather than a designated ceremony room) with ABSOLUTELY no personalisation or guest interaction allowed they have still been charged the 'enhanced' ceremony rate because it is on a Saturday - I don't know how the local authority can justify this fee?

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, with adequate mechanisms in place to guarantee that it is the couple who have applied to get married

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion on this, I would expect status quo to continue unless there is evidence that this has caused, or will cause, problems.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that it could list the type of officiant or under which form of 'rites and ceremonies', for example: registrar, independent officiant, Church of England, Quakers, etc. It would be the responsibility of the original officiant (or their employer/body) to arrange a substitute of the same type - to ensure that the couple had the type of wedding ceremony that they wanted.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as above: I feel that it could list the type of officiant or under which form of 'rites and ceremonies', for example: registrar, independent officiant, Church of England, Quakers, etc. It would be the responsibility of the original officiant (or their employer/body) to arrange a substitute of the same type - to ensure that the couple had the type of wedding ceremony that they wanted.

Please share your views below:

Not really, although I appreciate that the registration service, in particular, would like to retain as much flexibility as possible.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, if marriage notices are to be published online, so should Banns - all should be able to be found and searched easily by anyone who is interested.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

- 1, Yes
2. Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, there should be parity for all types of marriage preliminaries - irrespective of where the ceremony will take place (I don't think Banns should continue, but that may not be a popular change)

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I pre-empted the question! Yes, all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I worked for the registration service for 13 years, beginning as a casual registrar of marriages and working my way up to being a Superintendent Registrar.

I have worked as an Independent Celebrant for the past 5 years. I conducted thousands of weddings during my times at the registration service and have conducted over 150 wedding celebration ceremonies.

I strongly disagree that registration officers should only be able to officiate at civil weddings - or have I misinterpreted your question? Do you mean they should have no place in a religious wedding? In which case, I agree - they should only be involved in civil weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As I have previously stated, I have been a registrar, superintendent registrar and celebrant. If you are well prepared, and arrive in good time, there is no need for two people to officiate.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Political, sporting clubs, disreputable organisations (criminal gangs, etc)

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, absolutely.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think that the General Register Office should hold a list and it should have names that are designated as 'right and proper' and subject to removal from the list if they are found not to be, so no, I don't feel the 'office' would be sufficient - it should be individuals not their job title.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the General Register Office is holding a list of names that is open to the public there could be a probationary period - similar to the notice period - during which the public could ask for nominees to be scrutinised further, prior to them being able to officiate.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If you are proposing a set fee or maximum threshold it would need to reflect the amount of work that I put into my ceremonies to ensure that they are completely bespoke. I wouldn't want to put less effort in, but I expect to receive a fair recompense for what I do.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a mechanism that allows the General Register Office to override any organisation's nomination - and also allows for GRO to withdraw authorisation if an organisation fails to monitor satisfactorily (I'm thinking of some of the church scandals, but this could apply to any organisation)

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I keep pre-empting you questions, maybe I should have read them all first!

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General Register Office or Local Authority

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have conducted many weddings of these types while working for the registration service. I have also conducted celebratory ceremonies, as an independent celebrant, for couples when one of them has a terminal illness. I don't feel that there is currently a problem, other than the restrictions on who can officiate.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there should be minimum delay between the two - electronic schedules would enable it to be done almost immediately.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as people with terminal illness continue to be treated with compassion and allowed to reduce the waiting time between notice and marriage.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would have solved so many problems this year! It wouldn't have been the perfect solution - that doesn't exist - but it would have been very helpful.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Quite often couples come to me because they can't get a registrar for the date and time that they want their wedding ceremony. [REDACTED]

"I will always listen to, be led by, and give you, the ceremony that you want.

Quite often people get in touch with me because they can't get a registrar for the day, or time, that they want.

This is what one of my couples wrote after their wedding:

Whatever kind of ceremony you want [REDACTED] it should be conducted by someone that you know and trust.

I offer unlimited contact from enquiry to the day itself. I get to know some of my couples really well - because that is what they want. Others, I know less well - because that is what they want.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

These are the promises that I make to my couples...

I Promise:

To empower and enable you to have a meaningful and memorable ceremony, crafted just for you, held in any venue, at any time, that you choose.

To create a ceremony unique to you, reflecting your personalities, your relationship and your commitment.

To keep listening to you and always be warm, friendly and responsive to your questions, concerns and requests.

To work helpfully with you, and your other suppliers, and provide a personal and professional service, so that you are always assured that you have placed the most important part of your Wedding or Civil Partnership Day in the right hands.

To conduct your ceremony clearly and confidently so that you, and your guests, feel part of a true celebration of your love, full of special moments of pure joy and happiness (and hopefully lots of laughter - and maybe a few happy tears)

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please take a look at my testimonials page if you want to see the impact a personal and personalised ceremony can have on a couple's wedding day:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have conducted ceremonies for a large number of couples who live abroad, but have a connection to and want to celebrate their marriage in England or Wales. The current system for residency and giving notice is prohibitive in terms of time and cost. These couples complete the legalities where they live and then travel to the UK for what they consider to be their real wedding.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Local authorities would potentially lose income from registrars fee and licensing of approved premises

Government would potentially gain income from authorising independent celebrants and holding a register of officiants.

Officiants would need to pay for initial training, authorisation and CPD

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJB-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 14:05:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

personal

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not consider it to be confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

we got married last Friday at an informal celebration with our family members as we had to cancel our original wedding due to coronavirus. Prior to the pandemic I already considered that for personal and religious reasons it would have been appropriate to relax the archaic rules of marriage for those who wished to do so. Naturally it should remain open to individuals to get married in a church or registry office in the currently legal way should they choose to do so. Following the pandemic I feel this even more strongly. Due to inability to give notice people were deprived of the opportunity to get legally married at the time of their choosing.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We have had to book a separate legal marriage and did this prior to the meaningful ceremony.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Due to the pandemic we were not able to get legally married at the time of our choosing as our original notice would have been voided by the change in venue.

Serving notice was farcical anyway as the building the screen was shown in was locked.

Obviously we were aware of this before we undertook our family ceremony but it felt wrong that we would be deprived of getting married at this time particularly given the fact my husband is a front line medic, was exposed to the covid wards and indeed caught covid. If he had died he would have never been able to legally marry his fiancée due to archaic rules.

Apart from my personal experience I believe Christians are treated unfairly over other belief systems as they can get legally married in a venue that is holy to them whereas members of other religions cannot.

However non religious people should be able to choose a venue that is important to them too. This is an equality issue.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Tax

Complications with death in service benefit

Lack of recognition of our relationship

Judgment from other individuals during pregnancy

Requirement to register the person I see as my husband on a birth certificate when this would be automatic if we were legally married.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None applied to us.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have already covered this in previous responses however the key issue was that we could not serve notice in our home Borough even when it was possible for us to book a legal wedding with 2 witnesses.

When we did get the opportunity to serve notice it was entirely pointless as our information was displayed on screens in a building that was closed to the public.

Having a restriction on reception party sizes seems fair.

Insisting that wedding ceremonies themselves have to occur at a licensed site is unfair and ridiculous when individuals have already sometimes lost money on the site they had originally booked.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this point as I do not understand the purpose of the restriction or what benefit abolishing it may have.

I don't think it is a problem for non-resident people to not be able to get married here as we cannot legally get married abroad either.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As previously explained the physical notice was pointless. I didn't have a problem with appearing in person to give notice but was frustrated by (1) not being able to do so when I wanted to due to covid restrictions and (2) the notice itself being redundant by virtue of being displayed in a closed building.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

just do the interviews on the day. This is just another admin step that doesn't add any more value to do earlier.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree provided individuals are adequately protected

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes respect these circumstances, although take cost into account.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not know what a schedule is in this context

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any value whatsoever in having to identify the officiant in advance of the day. It should be easy for changes to be made as we are now capable of amending paper trails more quickly than used to be the case

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People spend a lot of time and money planning weddings which are sometimes very difficult for guests to attend. Why wreck a ceremony due to no fault of the couple? It is difficult to see the benefit in not allowing substitute officiants.

Please share your views below:

Yes - provided there is a paper trail. Again I can't see the benefit of not allowing this subject to the original officiant still getting paid if the couple cancels late etc.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't have an opinion on Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't have an opinion on Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I don't have an opinion on Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I don't have an opinion on Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I don't have an opinion on Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

all weddings should be treated equally.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems like a good method of ensuring avoidance of forced and sham marriages or failure to formalise a marriage effectively.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

people should have their wedding officiated by a person in a role of their choice.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot see the purpose of requiring more than one

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I can't comment as I don't know the current requirement or the religious implications of this.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Every religion or belief organisation should allow any marriage that it recognises to be legally binding in the UK subject to UK checks and balances (ie. Freedom to consent etc) in the same way that Christian weddings are recognised subject to these controls. I would gladly accept a government authorisation process for such representatives to ensure that UK legal requirements to recognise marriages are met (in addition to any religious / belief requirements).

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definition seems sufficiently wide. Humanists for example should be able to get legally married in my opinion in the same way as members of religions.

However I would also support authorisation of marriages which do not adhere to any belief system.

Please share your views below:

Create an authorisation process based around an understanding of the legal requirements and let authorised officiants build on that framework as required. Charge the same fee for all authorisations.

Allow officiants to affiliate themselves with a specific religion or belief system (so that more people want to use them!)

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

why does there need to be at least 20 people? Provided the second requirement is met and the officiant is authorised, then why not allow the couple to get married in accordance with their own desire to do so and irrespective of any wider belief system?

To me marriage is the union of two people in a family who wish to spend their lives together. It doesn't require any wider more fundamental belief system in my opinion.

This approach does not reduce the meaning of marriage for other groups who choose to have a ceremony in accordance with their own belief system.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes and this is a good example of why it is a bad idea to tie marriage to a wider belief system.

Unlawful/ immoral officiants should not be able to be authorised in allegiance with a specific belief system.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes subject to authorisation ie demonstrating an understanding of the baseline legal requirements

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

makes sense to have a centralised list

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but this goes against your earlier stated requirements re the requirement for a belief organisation

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

they should have responsibility for vetting their affiliated authorised officiants

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this is the authorisation process I mentioned earlier

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be able to choose who they want but the option should remain to always have an affordable wedding for each type of religion / belief system / non-belief based options

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There always be an affordable option

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People affiliated with a religion or belief system should be able to understand with certainty that their officiant is a genuine member of that religion or belief system

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is imperative that marriage is not entered into casually or without understanding the gravity of the commitment as this goes to the feeling of unity that it is supposed to represent.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but the guidance should not be overly prescriptive and should only relate to baseline legal requirements as opposed to any ceremonial aspects arising from specific religions or belief systems

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes if they were nominated by an organisation. The proposals potentially allow for individual applicants too. These may have to pay an extra fee to be subject to external monitoring.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

otherwise the authorisation process is rendered meaningless.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as above

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes subject to monitoring

Consultation Question 41:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This the same for multiple other professional bodies or bodies of authority and seems like a reasonable requirement

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this should represent the bare minimum and be respectful of traditions religions and belief systems (ie it should be as flexible as possible)

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see previous responses on this point and the decisions and opinions of the couple to be married being paramount

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

treat everyone the same in terms of a baseline requirement for getting married in the eyes of the law.

If additional or modified requirements are required by religion / belief system this is a matter for the couple and their organisation.

For example a marriage that meets the legal requirements may not necessarily meet the Jewish requirements.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How the couple chooses to conduct their ceremony should be a matter for the couple.

What is required for a ceremony to be recognised by a religion or belief organisation should be a matter for their religion or belief organisation.  
So for example a marriage that meets the legal requirements with some Jewish aspects would be a legal civil wedding but not necessarily a Jewish wedding where it doesn't meet the Jewish requirements.

Please share your views below:

I can't see why it is necessary to give examples. The couple should be able to do what they want in a civil ceremony and the couple should accept that their religion or belief organisation will not necessarily recognise the wedding if they "cherry pick" requirements.

It should be open to an officiant affiliated with a religion or belief organisation to refuse to conduct a ceremony that would not be recognised by their religion or belief system.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This doesn't seem like a legal matter provided the wedding is recognised as a civil as opposed to religious wedding.

If the law was changed to recognise all religious weddings as what they are provided they meet the requirements of the religion then this requirement is unlikely to be required

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the couple and officiant have a plan for any instance where the ceremony is disrupted and accept this risk.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a general rule I see no reason to limit couples' decision to get married wherever they choose subject to the points below re religions and belief organisations

Please share your views below:

as above

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this seems unnecessary and could dilute the value of a special place for members of a religion or belief organisation.

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

there will be a training and engagement framework to enable this. Leaving it to the couple could be confusing and result in formalities not being met

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

safe yes but dignified is too subjective if non religious or belief based weddings are to be allowed.

Provided the venue meets the legal requirements and the officiant is happy to marry the couple there then it seems like it is a matter for the couple not thr state to choose the venue .

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes subject to the comment above re dignity which would not be state assessed in my opinion

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

efficient and fair

Please share your views below:

GRO  
Charge a fee to the venue

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

why the need for occupations

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes although i am extremely uncomfortable with the requirement to treat same sex couples differently. I grudgingly accept this is inevitable for some types of religious ceremony but the opt in should only be required in relation to religious ceremonies in a religion where such opt ins are actually formally required. Such opt ins should not be a pre-requisite for all religious ceremonies.

No

Please expand on your answer:

witnesses and registrarion should be required. If the couple wants their marriage to be recognised meeting these basic requirements seems reasonable.

Errors could be corrected by a declaration by both parties witnessed by the officiant or a substitute officiant.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes although i am extremely uncomfortable with the requirement to treat same sex couples differently. I grudgingly accept this is inevitable for some types of religious ceremony but the opt in should only be required in relation to religious ceremonies in a religion where such opt ins are actually formally required. Such opt ins should not be a pre-requisite for all religious ceremonies.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This goes to the intention of the couple. The presumption should be confirmed by a witnessed statement from the couple or rectification of the certificate.

I do not believe cohabitation should be a requirement.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Recognising this would take autonomy away from the couple.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have views on this issue

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

doctors note expressing terminal illness should be sufficient evidence to forego notice period provided both people agree and have capacity.

Whilst this does remove some of the protection given by the notice system respecting the dying person's wishes seems more important.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

interview yes but obviously the 30 days notice is not going to work in all cases.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes but the couples should not be forced to marry remotely if they did not originally explicitly choose to do so. It should just be an option.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

the latter seems sufficient

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided there is no jurisdiction ambiguity. The couple not the state should be liable for the costs of proving that no such ambiguity exists.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided there is no jurisdiction ambiguity. The couple not the state should be liable for the costs of proving that no such ambiguity exists.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any vessel provided there is no jurisdiction ambiguity. The couple not the state should be liable for the costs of proving that no such ambiguity exists.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To the extent that locations generally need to be so identified

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

same rules should apply as in the case of inland weddings

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes I believe that a couple who would like to get married on the water should have the right to do so. I would consider it myself.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Or just register online once that infrastructure has been developed.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the state should meet some or all of the fee in excess of the cost of meeting at the town hall etc if the (1) individual is housebound and in receipt of benefits due to low income or (2) the non-incarcerated member of the couple is in receipt of benefits due to low income

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

As above re income.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

affordable marriages should be retained.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to previous points made re dignity

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fee to be met by venue as it will benefit from the approval

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided thr option to have an affordable registry office wedding is retained

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should never be at cost of state.

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

But the state should meet some or all of the fee in excess of the cost of meeting at the registry office if the (1) individual is housebound and in receipt of benefits due to low income or (2) the non-incarcerated member of the couple is in receipt of benefits due to low income

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

But the state should meet some or all of the fee in excess of the cost of meeting at the registry office if the (1) individual is housebound and in receipt of benefits due to low income or (2) the non-incarcerated member of the couple is in receipt of benefits due to low income

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

current law demonstrates inequality:

Religions aren't treated equally

Religious people have more entitlement than non religious people

Some people get to marry at a location they chose and others don't

The only reason a religious wedding should not be binding is if there is a direct conflict between the legal marriage requirement and the religious wedding. If both sets of requirements can be met then it should be seen as a religious wedding.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Currently good
2. Currently good from a legal perspective but appalling examples of excessive venue charges in some instances. I do not see this as a State matter
3. Can't comment
4. You can't?
5. I am annoyed I have had to split my ceremony and legal wedding and know many other couples who feel the same.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I dont think there is a change
2. Extremely significant
3. I believe this would no longer be necessary in all cases other than overseas weddings

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. I think this law is outdated and should be abolished. Not so much due to costs but more to do with autonomy. Couples should choose their location.
2. We had a good experience in this regard in London.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Is good however I would welcome a removal of the current trend for venues to charge exorbitant costs for an event just because it happens to be a wedding.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Would allow for streamlining and more meaningful practices so effort could be focused on checking consent / shams as opposed to the daft practice of giving notice to shut buildings

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't feel strongly about overseas weddings needing to be formalised in thr UK

I can see it being difficult and expensive to recognise overseas weddings as having legal status and given the ease and cheapness of registry office weddings I csnt see this as a priority.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I would support marriage on UK registered vessels of any kind (provided the minimal legal requirements were met)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A good source of income and a new maritime industry!

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The cost of giving wider choice should sit with the individual - but i consider the widening and increase in competition would bring the exorbitant venue costs down which would even this out



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJ8-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 14:35:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Register Office

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Government guidance to Local Registration Services was confused and late to arrive without enough scope for preparation.

Govt. refusal to relax the location rules made it more problematic to bring ceremonies back online.

Licensing of a whole property including outside spaces rather than individual rooms would make the process easier to manage.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should have freedom to choose which district to give notice in.

Currently couples with immigration implications already have choice over which register office to go to. This would rectify this unfairness.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The safeguarding of individuals which face to face interviews provide is paramount.

Registrars are able to assess the risk of domestic abuse, sham marriage, forced marriage, identity fraud etc and make referrals to the appropriate authorities.

Reducing face to face scrutiny will damage this safety net.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

To allow for immigration checks and other investigations to take place before the ceremony, and to allow for staff planning etc, a minimum of 28 days should be maintained

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. This is a dangerous idea and would mean some at risk individuals would not get the chance to be helped, while others would be upset by the implication of being called to a face to face interview while others aren't

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible suggestion.

Evidence should be provided to apply for exemption to display.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To prevent fraud

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the substitute is licensed

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no opinion

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no opinion

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

no opinion

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

yes for safeguarding, as in a register office

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes for safeguarding

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

safeguarding would be better served by civil preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The religious or other belief part of the ceremony can be distinct from the legal requirement.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule system removes the need for a second officer

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no opinion

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

all celebrants should be licensed to ensure compliance and good practice.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

too vague

Please share your views below:

Cults

Businesses

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

too vague

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes. organisations promoting unlawful behaviour should have no place in publicly recognised legal unions

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

no.

Named individuals only to ensure standards are adhered to.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be via licensing from the local registration service.

The local registrar could then assess local registrars and promote best practice.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Handled by local register offices

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With policing by local register offices

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Organisations will not police themselves.

An independent person (local registrar) should act as investigator with the local Proper Officer as arbiter.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

through local registrars

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A time limit would enable call back and improve standards

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Impediment may occur between preliminaries and the ceremony, so this should be addressed in the content of the ceremony.

Legally recognised wording (either written as part of the schedule or in the ceremony) to confirm the consent. Allowing couples to change this would cause doubt as to the validity of the ceremony.

Agree with the other parts

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A legally recognised and prescribed element would ensure all present understand the lawful status of the union.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no opinion

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Content of the ceremony around the legally recognised elements should be entirely at the couple's discretion.

Please share your views below:

no.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no opinion

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A couple should have the right to privacy

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Licensing of venues ensures health and safety measures are in place and should continue.

Please share your views below:

A flexible licensing system would be preferable, with discretion of the local SR to allow licenses for individual ceremonies or for longer periods of time. Outdoor ceremonies should be allowed, where there is contingency for bad weather in place.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants would be likely to allow a wedding to take place in pursuit of profit, even when the location may be potentially dangerous.

Some oversight should be in place from the local registration service.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The local registration service should oversee this

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The local registration service should oversee this

Please share your views below:

The local registration service should oversee this using the existing licensing expertise and experience.

There should be flexibility on duration of said license.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

absence of witnesses brings safeguarding issues.

Failure to sign the schedule and register it, should have consequences to ensure compliance.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

no, this process works well, although the statutory fee is derisory and below cost recovery levels by some margin.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:



There is a temptation by these couples to delay the wedding for various reasons (family attending etc.) This often results in the terminal party dying before the ceremony can go ahead.

It would be preferable to impose a time restriction on these schedules to avoid this issue.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no opinion

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

good learnings from recent events.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

boats and other suitable vehicles should be able to be licensed.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no opinion

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A fixed time period should be imposed on all couples. Keep it simple.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is for the benefit of the individuals concerned, particularly where it involves a terminal patient. Often it is arranged in order to avoid tax liability. Therefore, it would be right for the couple to pay a fair cost recovery price to gain those benefits.

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A more free market would provide ceremonies for all income levels.  
register office ceremonies are currently charged below cost recovery.

Marriage is for the benefit of the individuals concerned. Often it is arranged in order to avoid tax liability. Therefore, it would be right for the couple to pay a fair cost recovery price to gain those benefits.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be set by the local authority on a fair basis in line with market forces.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

local authorities should be able to compete fairly with the market and set fees accordingly as per their own priorities. This should include income generation pressures.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be set at cost recovery. Not below.

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Local authority should control this process and the fees involved

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have seen no evidence that either statement is true.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The fees under the current scheme are generally proportionate to the cost of delivery, except where terminal, housebound or detained are concerned.

Couples should have more choice of venue and be able to marry outside.

Venues should be able to license for a single ceremony or choose to license for longer.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

no opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Pre-approval should be maintained to ensure compliance with regulations and safety.

Registrar availability is good under the current scheme.

Religious officiants should only operate on religious premises.

I do not believe the number of weddings will increase.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law allows for LAs to ensure local venues are safe and that those officiating civil ceremonies are compliant.

Some elements of the current law cause LAs to work at below cost recovery.

Allowing LAs to license officiants and locations (inside and out) would maintain compliance and allow for a freeing up of the market.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Allowing LAs to license officiants and locations (inside and out) would maintain compliance and allow for a freeing up of the market.

The scheme as proposed would push LAs into reducing availability of registrars and cut jobs.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current system stifles competition between LAs and prevents wedding tourism into the country.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Freedom to marry at a location of your choice is welcomed.

competition between local authorities to bring weddings into their area would happen as each wedding has a potential benefit to the local economy.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. There is a risk that the proposals will remove an income stream from local authorities at a difficult time.

However there is possibility for casual ceremony registrars to move into the independent sector and work under license which could benefit the industry and local authorities.

2. More venues could benefit from looser venue regulation

3. No opinion

4. independent officiants could improve their professionalism under a licensing scheme

5. couples would have more choice.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJM-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 16:48:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but had to have 2 different ceremonies, 1 at register office and 1 handfasting as handfasting not legal

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The handfasting was what I wanted as that is my faith groups way of am trying. I chose to also have the legal ceremony as I wanted the protection given to legal spouses

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It will allow people to marry in places that are meaningful to them without a major upheaval to life...if you only have a weekend free having to live somewhere else for at least 8 days is impossible.

Getting rid of this role will allow people to get married at scree sites, by the sea, at places that mean something to them

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Think an interview is a good idea but in this day and age, why can't this be by video chat or telephone

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

See above..agree with this definitely

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, again in this day and age, people often work away from home etc due to lack of job prospects ...for this reason and just generally, what does it matter where the person is

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as if the officiant needs to change a new schedule is quick and easy to obtain

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, often there are personality clashes changed of heart and circumstances, these need to be taken into account.

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to post banks anywhere, no matter where the wedding is

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure what the rule actually says but again, should be great deal of flexibility in order to make marrying easier and less stressful

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No...See previous answers

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Can meet remotely, see above, some documentation should be needed but kept to a minimum...don't complicate for sake of it

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Think making separate declarations is good but don't need to attend....video, telephone, email...

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NO- not every one follows the Anglican religion... ie..I am pagan....we are a multi cultural society and should reflect this

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Make any officiant able to do so, humanist, pagan, whatever

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not enough knowledge to make judgement

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The choice of officiant should be the couples0

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Please share your views below:

Not all religions/beliefs are recognised....if someone is for instance, a Jedi, then they should be able to be officiated by someone from their groups...anyone should be able to officiate as long as they follow the rules(which should be simple and clear)

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many practitioners are solitary or in groups of less than 20.... Should be able to officiate anyway

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Unclear.... morality is changes over time and dependent on culture...as long there is a danger to life, or hate crime etc,yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes,but also see answers above....the decision as to which officiant should be the couple's

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A record of officiant? Yes..however pleas bear in mind that, for instance not all pagan priests/priestesses belong to The Pagan Federation and not all Interfaith ministers belong to The One Spirit interfaith doundation/miniaters association- thwy should atill be able to officiate...

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes..recognition of what enables them to be officiated should.not however be restrictive... if a person is a solitary pagan practitioner or has under taken a celebrant course,been ordained by something like the Universal Life Church, then they should be able to officiate

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For members of organisations,yes...

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but again see previous..do.not make what is the criteria for beingbtrgarded as 'proper restrictive. .Many officiant are solitary practioners and their cintinuungvelopment is there own spiritual practice...Make 1 and 2 but not 3 part of the rules

Consultation Question 32:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Many officiant are independent.. and anglian priests are paid for their services they even get salary.. having a business of being a celebrant is legitimate and can show commitment and authenticity

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes,but what defines a conflict of interest? Ie, if my sister is a pagan priestess I may want her to officiate

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Think they should be able to be part of both...Not all couples share beliefs..come may want s mix if say humanist and Anglican, or a athiest and pagan... the officiate should be able to straddle religious and non religious

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

But what does this mean? Marriages should be fun and happy...they should reflect the couple. And the officiate should be free to help them express whatever hey fish,as ling as no harm.is caused to others

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance....Not rules

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they belong to an organisation..See previous answers re solitary practitioners

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if they fail to follow the legal requirements...sndvthese should be a lot more relaxed than.now

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In theory...but the GRO and it's staff should have extensive guidance about different paths,ways if functions etc do they go not penalise officiated who do not fit in a standard box

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As in the GRO can take as long as it likes to augjorise-no

As in no limit on how long an.ifficuate can be authorised for-yes

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes,dependent on what the CPD is and that it takes into account different paths

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes! Should be the choice if the couple and officiate only

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes!

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to have a mix...why should civil or religious ceremonies be divided....just make it a marriage

Please share your views below:

See above answer + anything the couple want in order to reflect their beliefs

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if ripples change so no impediment to marriage...ie j7sr bake it a marriage ceremony..no fivisionmiver religious ,civil,whatever

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage can be private..if the couple want that then allow it

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes...if I want to be married in a tree house, at a sacred site, in my garden.. wherever. I should be allowed to

Please share your views below:

No...See previous answer

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes...but again don't divide marriage into civil or religious

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

People should be able to have a completely individual wedding, at any venue they like

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a decision should be for the couple and/or the officiant and/or the owner/caretaker of the venue to make

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings don't need to be dignified! They should be free to laugh, act ridiculous etc..

The owner/caretaker of venue should be responsible..although if officiant feels it's unsafe they should be asked to stop ceremony

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance re safety yes...

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be able to get married anywhere so no approval should be needed

Please share your views below:

See above

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many people work away for long periods( sokdiers/oil rig workers.....

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Common law' marriages are still valid..

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Make it shorter

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No.....all these people should be able to get married

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Don't waste time on red tape. They don't have it

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That can be issued to all officiants

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A used in can be terminal and deny odds to survive longer than docs expect

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Bearing in mind what we are dealing with, on reflection, yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. My husband has a high risk of death due to his genetic conditions but so far has defied death and survived longer than docs predicted...he should not be penalised for this

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, any kind..

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with giving this info...but not sure whether officiant should be available

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Skippers/officers should be able to act as officiant by way of their position

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Unknown.but as people and world more connected I would imagine so

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fees shpuld be negotiated on a case by case basis between the couple and the officiate

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

2

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Ideally 2,if not then 1

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

But this should be low so as not to restrict officiate from working classes

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Believe current laws do prohibit...because of standard wording, inability to truly personalise ceremony, inability to have wedding in indoor or outdoor venue of choice and inability to have a wide variety of f officiated available.

If the proposals make weddings more personal, have more freedom as to who does them,where,what is said and how much they cost. Yes

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I got married in a brief legal civil ceremony and had a pagan handfasting.. the necessity to have both as not able combine,the extra costs,the stress of he organising..was extremely stressful and did tempt me to call the whole thing off

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Know rgat registry off8ces ate booked for years...the cost of ceremonies varies and the fees charfed for different day can make thubgs difficult for couple's

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Believe it will increase businness,and the economy as well as help tourism

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See orevious answers

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

A wedding should be personal to the couple. To that end it should be able to be performed anywhere, inside or out, and officiated by someone the couple trust...be that an Anglican minister, pagan priestess who heads a group or who is solitary, family member or not and should be able to mix religious and civil elements

Someone like myself, an independent celebrant, a solitary pagan priestess, an ordained interfaith minister should be able to offer services as a business,



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDJK-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 16:56:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Rev [REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Association of Independent Celebrants

Interfaith Ministers Association

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

None

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Legal and abiding by the law is essential. I would not like to see anyone being forced into a marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the the officiant is unable to attend as arranged.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not really.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All faiths should be recognised.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

With the technology we have these days banns could be on line as well as in the church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We would be quite capable of seeing to this ourselves.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Associations that have proof of a persons training and are adhering to their rules and guidelines. Those who offer public liability and public indemnity insurance like the Association of Independent Celebrants.

The Interfaith One Spirit Organisation that is recognised for its extensive training and support structure.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for them to gather together for worship. They can have a sincere belief in marriage without having to meet regularly for worship.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Lawful and moral codes should be followed at all times.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Not necessary.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As previously stated. Recognised training and good support group is necessary. There are already rules and guidelines for those who are members of an association to follow and we must be 'fit and proper' at all times.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with 1 & 2. 3 would depend on what is to be determined by the Registrar General.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A nominal amount of profit is fine if the officiant is intending to officiate at weddings for their main income, but the sacredness of the marriage should come first.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should express the amount of work involved, the travelling and other expenses.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They know their members.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should not be officiates if they fail to comply.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant needs to demonstrate that they are able to comply and should they not, then a limit should be introduced. They can always reapply.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Readings or poetry that the couple wish to have included that may contain their spiritual belief.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within reason...safety should be viewed.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Once safety has been established then outdoors or in private homes or on a boat is fine.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be discussed between officiant and the couple.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All help and assistance should be welcomed.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Limitations should not be enforced...but could be used as a guideline.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 yes. 3 I don't think is necessary.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 yes. 3 I would suggest that the marriage has to be registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problem.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Private boats.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be agreed between officiant and the couple.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should reflect the officiants costs and what the couple are asking for. Some require more, some require less.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe more couples would have legal weddings if they had more choice in the venue, the content and taking into account their own spirituality. There are those that are of mixed spirituality and want a blended ceremony. There are those that want to dance and sing, play drums, and this can't be in a registrars office.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Some of the approved venues...mainly hotels are very expensive. Lots of added extras pump up the cost. There are those couples that want something different, and not so expensive so in their garden is fine. As long as the legal requirements are observed, the wording is clear, the documents are signed then the cost and venue should be another main factor. The cost of bringing out a registrar to an approved location is often very expensive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A pre-approved location or a place of worship should not be the only venues on offer.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have attended a wedding where the couple had to pay £500 for two registrars to attend. One to say the legal words...and one to write it down!!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Any improvement on what we have at the moment will be beneficial to marrying couples.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I was ordained as an Interfaith Minister in 2011 and those who were ordained alongside me who live and officiate at weddings in Scotland are also allowed to be registrar. I live in England and am not. England and Wales need to come in line with Scotland.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDWV-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 17:16:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Copse Country House

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Oxfordshire

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

financial

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We are a venue for wedding celebrations. We have found that many couples who have postponed to 2021 cannot now find space with the Registrar, Couples also come to us because they have completed the legal requirements and want more freedom to structure the kind of ceremony and celebration that suits their style and budget. Freedom of choice is really important and no restrictions on suppliers they must use.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

flexibility is very helpful here

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I dont think couples mind having the in person interview and it does make the occasion more solemn?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the requirement for access to the ceremony for anyone who is interested might be avoided if this is part of the plan

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

couples tend to book 18 months ahead and some as much as 24 months ahead and so greater flexibility might be sensible

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think it is excellent that an officiant not a venue is the license holder. This will open up many more places in which to marry and bring down the cost to those couples who wait perhaps for years without marrying because it is too expensive.

This new law will encourage couples to be creative in the choice of their venue if they wish and make their wedding very much their own.

We will no longer hear from the 'millenials' the cry of 'oh no not another barn wedding with catering by x who caters most barn weddings in this area...'

Competition will be very good and couples will find a way, rather than having to borrow or be funded by parents.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view one way or the other

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think your idea to publish on line is a good one. I think couples will like that.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think the serious nature of the wedding should not be lost in the new freedom that these changes will bring. Couples will like there to be safeguards.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes both should declare this either together or separately as suits them

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

some couples really love the idea of a church wedding that is their 'real' wedding but i think there will be less and less of these as time goes on?

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is definitely overkill that two registrars attend and the cost can be as much as £1000 in some counties. Oxfordshire is £500

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They have gravitas

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I dont know

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes I agree some organisations should be excluded - or rather a handful of organisation should be included. It should not be felt that 'anyone can marry you'. It has to be a proper approved person.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I would think nominating named individuals would be best

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the market will take care of any overcharges

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I also think that the wording of the church service is wonderful and at present it is only able to be used in church. It should be allowed to be used widely if couples so wish. I cannot imagine why the church would not think this was OK

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

also another route for complaints?

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes the language of a church wedding ceremony is lovely and may be chosen by couples if that is what they would like

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

some couples where one is divorced like to have a religious service following a registrar signing and this should be allowed

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is not an issue for the venue or should not be and is another level of protection for 'marriage'

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do think that if a couple want to marry in Tesco that should be allowed as long as they are serious about their vows, the location is personal and if they can organise it, should be allowed. There should be safety considerations built in somewhere if guests are invited to the ceremony

Please share your views below:

Safety considerations should limit more outlandish venues ....

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this will increase choice for couples

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

much will depend on the views of the church to the use of their properties, but if they are willing and want to expand their congregation, then that should be fine

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

that is a great idea. If the officiant is regulated, they will understand they have a responsibility to the safety of couple and guests?

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this would be very helpful for directories that want to list venues known to be able to host weddings

Please share your views below:

existing approved venues can continue, others can apply to be approved and pay for a one off registration. Perhaps officiants can de list venues that are unsafe but I expect the market will take care of badly run venues

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

not as romantic!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the couple must live together in order for the marriage to be recognised and not used as a convenience?

No

Please expand on your answer:

You need to get married in order to be married, not just slide into it.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not know what this is

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

anything that can be done to ease this provision would be welcome as long as no one is under duress

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as this is not subject to duress

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I have no view

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

the officiant needs to say if the venue is safe

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I think the demand would be very limited because of guests and family and friends attending. This type of wedding would be very small, perhaps 4 people...

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

hard to know when they might reach land

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If couples do not want this then they would now have other options

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

again the market will take care of any excessive charges, I think charges need to be published and available so couples can compare costs

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe this law will encourage couples to marry and increase the number of couples who are legally married.

Weddings are expensive and anything which makes them more affordable is to be welcomed.

We often hear from our couples that they are saving to buy a home and to spend £20,000 - £30,000 on a wedding is a huge item. Even if their parents are paying, this is substantial.

We witness a huge demand for 'do it yourself' weddings, cost cutting, not having to use certain suppliers exclusively and so on.

The social media needs to reflect many more home made weddings, rather than exclusive high cost destination weddings that are a dream and a fantasy for most couples.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples accept that they need an official marriage licence and the cheapest way is to book a brief attendance with the Registrar. They can then create their own celebration wherever they want, but with some couples the feeling persists that this is not their 'real wedding'.

To have a registrar at their 'real wedding' means a cost of using a registered venue, which is often out of reach in terms of cost per head per guest and

averages £15000 plus.

Most couples who come to us to celebrate have 100 - 120 guests. After Covid we expect weddings to be smaller but most couples have perhaps 50 family and 50 friends and find it very hard to reduce this. This might happen naturally post covid and it would be good for weddings to be smaller. But couples do want an after party if not a weekend celebration and that is their dream currently.

Going abroad to a destination is often viewed as way to reduce their guest numbers...

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is often thought that to marry 'in your back garden' is a cheap option. Having run both sorts of wedding, the back garden variety can be disappointingly expensive....marquee hire, furniture hire, generator, lights, tables, flooring, music system, loos, refrigerator, cooking facilities and so on can rapidly run into £10,000 plus.

So venues are often a cheaper option as they possess all these services included in the price.

These regulations will be a massive help to those on a tiny budget, as it will allow them to marry within the budget they have and not decide it cannot be afforded. They can make it amazing by their own creativity in choosing where they are and that is what guests will remember and enjoy - not yet another 3 course meal with warm wine that is overpriced?

At my sons wedding we had a pizza van that fed everyone for £10 a head and we bought salad and wine from Aldi. He loves food but said that none of his friends go to a wedding expecting great food, for that they go to a restaurant. They come for the music, the company, the occasion all of which can be provided at no great cost if the couple is liberated from licensed venue with a pay bar or corkage. Of course those kind of weddings will still be popular, but the change in law will really help those keen on DIY and happy to have fun in a hay field...or woodland..with a picnic.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

We were licensed for four years and now we are not. We have not seen any reduction in the popularity of our venue as a result of not offering an on site registrar service. We are always fully booked.

What couples appreciate is the freedom to choose what suits their style and budget. But they do want to know that you are professional and a cost attaches to that. They also like being able to choose more easily the time of day or night for their ceremony that is not driven by the availability of registrars.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

These changes will be most welcome by our business ([www.thecopsecountryhouse.com](http://www.thecopsecountryhouse.com)) which has been operating this model alongside registrar weddings. As an operator we much prefer celebrant weddings as do couples and guests. They find them more full of joy and the option to choose their own celebrant is paramount.

There needs to be some checks on couples marrying and couples welcome this as they want to feel this is a 'proper' occasion involving some ritual. Progressively our couples are doing away with 'walk down the aisle' and they mingle with their guests as soon as they arrive. They are also doing away with 'the first dance' and throwing the bouquet. Many do not use florists if they choose a beautiful venue.

They do love having accommodation on site and the wedding not just lasting one day. Particularly couples with relatives coming from abroad, they love to stay on site and prepare for the day all together and this reduces the need for staff and keeps down costs for them. We definitely recognise a rise in the 'do it yourself' venue.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think local authorities have to wear too many hats. They have to regulate weddings but also encourage local business and this often does not sit well.

They have to approve premises and this means that many fabulous places are rejected because of the requirement to marry under a solid roof.

Large licensed venues benefit hugely from the current restriction on competition from a whole range of potential venues that would be a) less expensive for couples b) less of an issue for local authorities.

Noise restrictions and number of guests in such venues will have to be regulated and monitored, but the venues will welcome this in order to keep both neighbours and couples happy and safe. But a ceremony on a hilltop or lakeside could be ideal. In our experience only one Saturday each summer season is a total washout and those couples who had rain on their day ended by loving it and having huge fun. Of course if they choose outdoors out of season they will be less lucky with out a wet weather plan. But this will benefit marquee companies and stretch tent vendors.

I thoroughly support these changes as being long overdue, very sensible, positive, money saving but at the same time providing new and exciting opportunities for creative businesses - who deserve to thrive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities struggle to communicate across departments in our experience. Having approved venues is a nightmare for them.

They are required to monitor everything to do with weddings in case of local complaints - traffic, noise, light, deliveries - and yet they also need to provide local services and support business that brings job to the locality (hairdressers, waitresses, photographers, caterers, florists...) and brings overseas customers and tourists.

Often difficult to balance and stressful particularly when communication is lacking.

I would think that local authorities would be glad not to have to grant permission to venues to hold weddings - and can thus focus on the health and safety issues at the venue, or business generation assistance that may require their intervention without it being a conflict of interest.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

the current law makes it very inconvenient for residents travelling to marry elsewhere so their family and friends can more easily attend

progressively families are spread far and wide and are not 'local'

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think this will be enormously helpful and will really open up the UK as a destination wedding country which it is not currently?

To have a holiday in London combined with a wedding might be ideal for many...

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think they could really promote this, particularly as I feel small weddings are going to be increasingly popular going forward

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know but easing regulation must help. Plus couples will love the idea if they love the ocean...

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Local authorities will lose income but reduce costs and probably see a net benefit

Businesses will grasp the opportunity and love the change

Religious organisation can offer their lovely buildings and bring back income that might be much needed

Independent officiants will flourish if they are good

couples will have miles more choice and guests will have the great relief in weddings 'season' of not going to endless copycat weddings indistinguishable because so much is regulated. Couples are really creative and to have their perfect day is the best start to a married life.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDW5-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 18:29:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Pagan Federation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pagan Handfasting

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremony in line with religion but not uk law

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Good idea

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if it applies to all faiths as well

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to apply to all religions equally

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings and religion are separate.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

20 is arbitrary. Pagans usually meet in smaller groups but should be valid

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Who decides public morality?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, ie the Pagan Fed which is an organisation about religion, not a central religious body

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes there needs to be some structure

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as they will know the best

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Would like to have had a bit of Pagan wording at my Civil ceremony

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Didn't know that existed

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, most pagans would want it to be outside

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, it should be the couple. What if the celebrant has a personal dispute with a venue from the past over something petty?!

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should that be in there?!

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Same sex should be allowed for all faiths (in law)

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Same sex should always be legal in law regardless of faith

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, with harsh repercussions!

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How do you know someone isn't lying to get a quick emergency marriage?!

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes! There would be some amazing heathen / biking weddings at sea!

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. If you want to be married under UK law you must be in the uk!

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No! As above!

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set fee scale to stop profiteering

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Up to celebrants if they want to reduce fees

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes set fee

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:



Whole pagan faith lacks 'legitimacy by handfastings not being recognised by uk law

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Registrars fees are fine. Venues are the bulk of the cost!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Not massively relevant to pagans, most would want to be married on accessible land, ie beaches, woodland etc.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDWU-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 19:36:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Pagan Federation [REDACTED] Branch)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not currently in a marriage not recognised by law. If I was to marry it would be outside and by handfasting as I am Pagan, and as such it would unfortunately not be recognised by law.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would impact every single area as I'd want to be recognised as married - not just in a civil partnership. This is very important to me.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The inability to have a wedding outside and under the sky and for my marriage to be complete by handfasting is major. I wish to be married outside, under the sky as per my beliefs as a Pagan.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

This should be flexible.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I do not agree with this. Having worked for the council I know where we recognised a sham marriage because everyone had to go for the interview no red flags were raised when this was arranged (it was not considered out of the ordinary) and the authorities could step in. Making this something that only occurs in cases where people are suspected of something would completely and utterly ruin that.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Every single religion should have exactly the same rights - if that is the case then Pagans Priests and Priestesses or Muslim Imams should be recognised by virtue of their office. This would be outright religious discrimination.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it allows people to marry in a manner in which reflects their personal belief.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would become very political and could cause for unfair discrimination and power struggles.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is important to me as I'd like my wedding to be according to my personal pagan traditions.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

People should be able to express their own religious views.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

People should be able to marry in all of the above venues.

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All venues should be acceptable no matter where they are as long as the officiant can carry out his/her duties. The officiant can choose if THEY wish to conduct in particular places but they cannot decide a venue is not acceptable.

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that it needs to be safe, but not that it needs to be dignified. If people wish to get married standing in a pool in a bikini that should be fine. It is up to the individuals. In my case, I would choose to be married via handfasting standing in the ocean.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Occupations change and should not form a part of this.

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Abused women (and men) may not be able to seek support until after 3 years.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDWR-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 20:03:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No worries

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding Celebrant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

People want individual choices nowadays.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

What weddings? All my 2020 clients either postponed or cancelled their weddings.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Outdated. Maybe reduce to three days like other Countries?

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed to protect against sham marriages.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

20 days to take into account honeymoons.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Very good idea. Millennials expect much more of life to be online.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Should continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Possibly depending on circumstances .

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, United Kingdom??

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I see no need to change.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Ok with me.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Bring us all into line.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Possible reduction of expense for the couple.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clean up and regulate the industry.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Regulated Celebrant organisations

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of choice.

Please share your views below:

As long as safe, let it go.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General Registrar Service

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

For to many good to go through.

Consultation Question 63:

Other



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Why not?

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Definitely prevents couple getting married.
2. I foresee an increase in weddings.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDWA-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 20:12:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Gylden Fellowship

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No reason to keep confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a Christian ceremony 33 years ago, before I became a pagan

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Several friends have had to postpone their weddings due to the closure of places of worship.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is unnecessarily restrictive requirement.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logistically, this seems a reasonable proposal

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a flexible period

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In the light of pandemic restrictions, a Zoom or Skype interview should be optional

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Again, this seems a reasonable proposal

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Don't see any reason not to

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Really, it should be 12 months + 1 day, but this is for handfasting as well as marriage

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should be named

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible

Please share your views below:

Depends on the nature of the ceremony

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on the protocols of other faiths

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not being Christian, i suggest this is a question for CoE worshippers

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

All these questions should be expanded tp include weddings within other faiths

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Sounds a good idea for all weddings

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

There's a good reason for all weddings in any faith or handfastings to be preceded by the civil prelims before the ceremonies. I believe that the Anglican faith has decreased markedly in recent years in terms of worshippers.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any Anglican conditions should be discarded

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within pagan handfastings, celebrants should be officially qualified too.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical to have a reserve, as needed

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be trained and recognised, regardless of their faiths. There should not be a bye for CoE or CoW clerks.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not exactly sure how one defines a relevant governing body, eg for druids, would it be BDO or OBOD? It should be for different faiths to maintain registers of chaplains or celebrants.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That's a really simplistic view in respect of pagan pathways

Please share your views below:

The Living with Difference Report set out some interesting definitions on faith and belief, eg is a marriage between two heathen people very different to a marriage between two vegans? Is ecological activism a belief or not?

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, providing that handfasting is included within the definition of marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

There is a discussion here on what morality means. The question should not arise if the purposes promoted are simply at variance with the government of the time. However, I feel that any organisation that promotes policies against the Equality Act, should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I'd suggest that any religious organisation should be capable of having a training programme and accreditation or register of suitable individuals.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would allow couples to request particular celebrants

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That should mean trained for purpose, eg no point in having a Wiccan celebrant for a druid handfasting

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Content also to be advised by appropriate religious bodies

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Handfastings are sacred rituals with profits not playing a part = celebrants should charge a small fee and expenses, eg travel. Sadly, the making of profits and the marriage business seem to be a part of Christian culture.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Basic fee + expenses are all that's needed with a cap on excessive fees. Never should be a conflict of interest.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Conflicts of interest should be avoided, but if the same fee structure applied, it would not matter if there was an overlap.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please expand marriage to include handfastings

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With appropriate advice from faith bodies on ceremonial protocols

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hopefully, each organisation will have a complaints procedure for this type of problem.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



I can foresee possible problems with certain marriage protocols: each such case should be resolved between the GRO and the religious body.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible for independent persons

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps there should be a review mechanism, as advised by the religious bodies

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be incumbent on every officiant to maintain CPD.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The template for handfastings and pagan marriages is not straightforward, eg the cords, the words of consent, use of drums and dances. Usually, the couples are advised by an archdruid at a stone circle or another senior celebrant. Giving details of handfasting ceremonies to the GRO might be problematic, but an approximate schedule might be possible under different pathways, eg heathen, druid, Wiccan, etc.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is each couple's special day.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on the conduct of weddings in other faiths

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There's no pagan scripture, but a reading or poem or song seems OK.

Please share your views below:

Well, within the druid tradition, possible extra content might be bardic, eg storytelling, a song, poetry, etc

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a choice - for some, a handfasting is a personal ritual at a sacred place, but the civil wedding is just to comply with the law.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

From a pagan aspect, handfastings or civil weddings do not need public access

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pagan wedding ceremonies do not require buildings - registration aside - but the actual handfastings are usually held outside.

Please share your views below:

It should be decided by the couple and the celebrant. Stone circles, yew groves and other sacred sites are good for pagans.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pagan civil weddings do not need the public there.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think the law should make any such prohibition = let the celebrant and the couple opt for a venue and progress from there...subject only to issues such as covid-19 restrictions on venues.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An archdruid or senior pagan can advise on when a venue might not be available, but the final decision should rest with the couple.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Dignified - certainly. Not sure about safe = a risk assessment would be expected anyway.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Outside venues will be open to discussion, but the GRO and the HSE together might produce something.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One can never take too many precautions

Please share your views below:

The liability for risk assessment lies with the venue owners and/ or event organisers, but one might have regard to safety inspectors' reports or insurers in certain places. And the results should be available to the celebrant and the couple.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Date and location - OK. Parental stuff - not at all.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe, data security is always dubious

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1-3 are OK more or less, due to administrative issues. No 4 should be junked in the light of equality = it is an anachronistic condition.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage should not be voided, but a couple should be alerted and able to amend any errors.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As with the answer to question 57, my thoughts are to agree with the proposal on consent and also 1(a) and 1(b)(i). 1 (b)(ii) should not be an impediment to a marriage.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion on this

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea of a common-law spouse is still relevant = should be a choice for each couple

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be a limit

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's a fraud

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not sure about legal problems, but there are provisions for guardians and those with powers of attorney.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it's a terminal, mental illness, I think an interview is a safeguard.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Let's see the actual proposals

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Medical estimates vary so widely = all schedules should be open-ended

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All schedules should be flexible

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As we've found out this year, too many people had to reschedule weddings due to the pandemic

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on the nature of the emergency

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cynically speaking, I'd say that the DWP cannot recognise evidence that someone is seriously ill for benefits. Realistically, the risk of death is a better yardstick than serious illness.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason why not

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Seems logical as to location, subject only to safety issues. One could be married on a RN warship.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion - a cruise ship might have its own chaplain

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems OK

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No opinion, but there could be.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonableness is always the key

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Expenses, not profits

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

I believe in compassion

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fees, not profits

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Nationally regulated fees, not variable by districts

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Let's lose the cost-recovery bit and put in a non-profitable basis

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Expenses only

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be by negotiation

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Equality

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

No fee is best, but this may not be viable

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Applicants trained and nominated by religious bodies should not need much assessment by the GRO. For independent applicants, perhaps such a fee may be needed.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No real evidence. My view is that the definition of marriage should be extended to include handfastings.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Handfastings are almost a law unto themselves = sacred open-air locations, nominated and trained celebrants, unique protocols and extra content. The necessity to register the marriage in law afterwards should be a fast or electronic process, unencumbered by a separate ceremony. For pagans, the whole process of recognising handfastings as legal marriages would save a lot of the costs listed above.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Why should a place of worship be a building? It could be a forest glade.

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No opinion

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not applicable

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not applicable

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No opinion



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDW7-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 20:29:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Guides for Brides Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The GRO caused a lot of issues as their guidance was not clear, they were very slow to react and all registration districts worked differently, causing huge confusion for couples.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes commercial sense to encourage couples from overseas to marry here and there seems no benefit in the 7 day requirement.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Checking the schedule matches is a quick process.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote consultation should be just for exceptional reasons, not as standard.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Definitely.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, couples would prefer to give more notice as the popular venues get booked up so early but this would be less of an issue when it is officiants.

In case of situations such as a pandemic, there should be provision for the schedule to be extended. Many couples were charged for extensions, although every district varied.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. The schedule should identify the officiant as it will help establish that they are authorised.
2. There would be many reasons that the officiant would be substituted.

### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be an option to change if the change is needed for any reason. So much could change in the 12 months since the officiant was named - retirement etc

However that change should be made on the schedule before the wedding.

Please share your views below:

Only due to death, sudden illness etc if it is on the day.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Irrelevant and outdated.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The civil route would be better than Banns.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if Banns are required. But the civil route would be better than Banns.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To future-proof, it should cover any belief organisation with a reasonable number of members and with a recognised belief around weddings.

Please share your views below:

Yes, and the term "preserving the dignity and solemnity of marriage" could be the defining factor?

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO need to be more accountable for publishing the relevant information and answering questions from the public with this additional authority vested in them.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Joint responsibility between the organisation that nominated them and the GRO.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Must be clear guidance for officiants from the GRO.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In the air does not preserve the dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

No reasons to restrict this by law.

People would only choose to if they have a compelling reason to.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Under clear GRO guidance. However Independent Celebrants should be more restricted or that will agree to marry people in inappropriate places that others have rejected, for the commercial benefit.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants could be covered by this and only hold ceremonies in pre-approved venues?

Please share your views below:

Local Authority.

Small fee to cover inspection if needed.

Licence to last several years, view online and be renewable easily.

This would give an advantage to currently Approved Venues as they could promote that they are pre-approved and reduce hassle for couples.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Occupation of parents is irrelevant.

Names of the parties' children would be as relevant as the parents' names.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with point 4. All couples should be treated equally in law.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with 2. There is no reason not to have witnesses.

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Same sex couples should be treated the same.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time limit or lawyers will use this as a reason many years later when no one can prove the consent.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Fees should be the same; in many situation they are marrying for financial gain or tax benefits so should not get reduced fees.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a high chance of the marriage being forced in this situation for insurance or inheritance reasons.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, perhaps as pre-authorised locations only? Using the home port Local Authority.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should need to give name of officiant OR it be a named position eg Captain.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be submitted electronically within 7 days and hard copy filed later..

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should pay the same as others. There are financial benefits if they marry.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These should be FAR more easily available as they are currently very limited.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Or standard fees should apply.

There is no religious or belief requirement to marry before death, it is choice often made for the financial benefits.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The most significant impact would be a considerable rise in the number of wedding celebrations taking place in England and Wales which are currently happening overseas.

This is thought to be between 15-30% of weddings, especially second weddings. Many have small legal ceremonies here but have a bigger (outdoor) wedding and the reception - which generates all the income - is overseas. If they could marry where they choose the entire celebration would be in the UK.

We'd attract far more overseas couples to marry here.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Statutory wedding appointments are hard to get, eg Tuesday mornings only in some places to force couples to pay more.
2. Approved premises have been cashing in on couples and have had a monopoly. We have noticed these are the venues massively impacted by the pandemic as so many weddings were booked in APs.
3. Places of worship add on fees so that they are similar to the costs of approved premises.
5. Slightly pointless and needs changing.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Register office weddings should be inexpensive and easily available for those on a genuinely low budget so marriage is accessible to all.
2. and 3. No reason for the cost savings to be a big incentive here; the ceremony is a tiny cost (£500 average) compared to the reception (£16500

average). The reason couples want the change is for the CHOICE, most would be prepared to pay more for that choice.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

In some districts the shortage of registrars has been reported as an issue.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

4. Business opportunities will be more diverse - at the moment there is a monopoly with a few approved premises getting a huge proportion of the weddings.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Current law is forcing couples overseas and discouraging others from marrying here.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It could be a help to cruise ships who'll be struggling!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

2. Venues: Our surveys and data have shown that a small number of venues, typically those part of venue groups with 2-15 venues under the same ownership, have not treated couples well during the pandemic and are at the centre of expensive and damaging disputes.

They are all approved premises.

These same venues will be the ones most negatively impacted by these proposals as they currently have a monopoly.

They have formed a pressure group and have instructed a QC to challenge the CMA and may also try to block these proposals.

We have found they are in a minority but they have the loudest voices.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDWD-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 20:32:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I don't wish to remain anonymous.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married, nor do I wish to be however people should have a choice.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above ☐☐

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above the above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Geez, how long is this going to go on for?

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

A long time ago, I would have wished to have a legally binding marriage that recognised my nature based religion.

I did not wish to have an informal meaningful ceremony and then to have to have a legal one in a registry office or similar. I did look at weddings in Scotland but the logistics were too hard.

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the need for this? Why don't you expand your question and explain this fully?

People shouldn't need to be in a set place for a set time to get married.

How would you even enforce such a thing?

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If I light a torch, would that help you to find your way out of the dark ages?

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

No

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Why not?

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I'm sure Scottish people wouldn't need to come to England to get married as they are far, far ahead of us in this matter.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't care what other people do with their lives. Imagine that. Letting others live their lives as they wish ☐☐☐☐

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDW2-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 20:56:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

As long as the substitute officiant is suitably qualified/licensed I don't see why a reason for substitution is necessary

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Let the couple choose what is right for them

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This seems like a reasonable thing to do.

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Weddings should be permitted to take place in any location

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any kind of wedding should be permitted in any location

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDWH-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-03 22:41:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a pagan who is not married yet but next year will be having a Handfasting ceremony as well as a registrar wedding.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I understand that paganism is not recognised as a religion but feel that this is wrong considering that it was practiced by our ancestors before Christianity was introduced in this country and continues to this day and that Handfasting should be recognised as a legally binding ceremony as it formulates the union of two people who wish to be together.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Given the chance we would have only chosen to be handfasted.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Both me and my Fiance recognise that in the eyes of the law we would not be recognised as a married and although this makes no difference to us both personally it causes lots of issues when applying for benefits and other legalities.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

As I have written above if we where to just have a handfasting ceremony legally we would not be treated as man and wife and therefore wouldn't be able to apply for certain benefits ect.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Originally we planned to get married May the 9th this year but it was cancelled we rescheduled again for September 19th this year but with the reduced numbers of guests it meant that we couldn't have the wedding we wanted so we re scheduled again for 1st May 2021. We incurred extra charges to give notice again which was annoying as all of this was out of our control.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It shouldn't matter where you live in the country in order to give notice.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

One month

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Totally agree with the above statement

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

The above should continue

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Initially 12 months but extensions should be allowed in certain circumstances where it is out of the couple's control if the ceremony can't take place.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I see no reason why not.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that does not protect underage marriages (children) they should be on the list

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

All should be allowed so long as it is safe

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Governing body should be responsible by means of visiting the venue if it's never been used before and a list drawn up of all such venues that are recognised as appropriate.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Getting married is very pricey everywhere

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXV-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 01:37:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be more flexible to accommodate for events held in advance of the wedding and preparation time.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

The established period seems appropriate.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in-person interview would be more suitable. Remote interviews are by nature much less thorough, reducing protection against forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This should continue, it seems appropriate.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is by nature a public announcement, so in all but rare circumstances this is suitable.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be more flexible to the various religious traditions in the UK and give more legitimacy to the chosen officiant.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, the above delays cover the scope of a substitute officiant.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In this respect the UK should be treated as the united country it is. With many Britons moving around the UK frequently in the modern era, it seems needless to create such a division where it does not already exist.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These rules seem clearly contextual to 1949.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This is a suitable protection.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The extant Anglican tradition does not need to be disrupted.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is appropriate to the role of an officiant.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There role would be inappropriate in a religious wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is appropriate to their traditional authority.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would accommodate the various religious traditions found in the UK.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

This is appropriate to the role of such organisations within the context of a wedding. A civil ceremony remains a suitable option for those whose proposed secular organisation does not meet this criteria.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a suitable criteria for whether an organisation is suitable for the role. It is not too demanding and permits small religious organisations.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If the promoted purposes are in serious breach of public policy, such as the support of violent causes or terrorism, then this is appropriate: our law should not need to legitimise such organisations by recognising a capacity to provide officiants. However, if the promoted purposes are unlawful but not violent or directly dangerous, then it is beyond the moral authority of the law to prevent that organisation from providing officiants on that basis. The promoted purposes should only be excluded if they are indictable offenses.

For example, if a religious organisation also advocated for illegal but non-violent protest activities, say as part of an environmentalist cause, it would be a grave over-reach of the Government to forbid them from providing officiants on this basis. This would be used as undue leverage on religious organisations that also support peaceful protest movements.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This would accommodate the religious role of the officiant within the organisation, relevant to the couple beyond just being their officiant.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would appropriately devolve the responsibility to the organisation, presumably in line with what is already in the place with the CofE.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be suitable in protecting the role of the officiant from commercialisation.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The previous proposal in Q32 is more appropriate to the role of an officiant.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if it is within the fundamental role of an officiant to ensure the consent of the couple. Guidance should not extend beyond this, since wedding traditions are right to vary.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is suitable in giving the organisation equivalent responsibility to the CofE in this context.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is a contention about the authorised officiant it should be decided in court.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is a contention about the authorised officiant it should be decided in court.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Previous legal training should be sufficient.

I worry this could be used to arbitrarily de-authorise officiants if the professional development is vaguely defined, or that it would unnecessarily heighten the requirements for being an officiant.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would suitably accommodate all traditions while maintaining the standard for ensuring a consensual marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would accommodate for circumstances where a religious service is unobtainable for other reasons but the couple has religious beliefs.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should remain an option to hold a religious service after a civil wedding, to accommodate those who are religious but are unable to secure a religious wedding ceremony for whatever reason.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be the best and simplest way to accommodate the various religious traditions in the UK.  
For example, currently it is not permitted for a neopagan druid organisation to hold a wedding outside.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

There can easily be dispute over the classification of venues. For example, a neopagan druid organisation should not be prevented from holding a ceremony at a prehistoric monument simply due to a dispute as to whether it officially constitutes as religious venue or place of worship. For pagans, many sites are sacred for religious reasons that might also be important to non-pagans for secular reasons, such as megalithic monuments.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal in Q48 is the most suitable.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal in Q48 is the most suitable.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal in Q48 is the most suitable. I believe added restrictions over location will simply create needless red tape.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The traditional paper document is the most suitable and secure, and the occasion is worthy of sacrificing the minor convenience of an electronic version.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The presumption is not a suitable protection against forced marriages.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are any number of good reasons why the non-consenting party may not have been able to petition for nullity within the three-year window.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the party has a medically verified terminal illness, it would cause needless stress to require such an interview before the ceremony. An interview at a later date should be sufficient in such a case.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe many couples are alienated from marriage due to the strict and outdated requirements regarding officiants and locations, which prevent couples from having a marriage that suits their personal and/or religious values.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As a neopagan who would one day wish for a particular local druid organisation to nominate an officiant and conduct the handfasting ceremony for a pagan wedding, the current restrictions on location and choice of officiant are a major and needless barrier to having a wedding according to our traditional values. Given that nearly all pagan places of worship are outdoors, that most are not officially registered as places of worship, and that our traditions hold to a vision of weddings as an outdoor occurrence, the current law makes an adequate pagan wedding all but impossible. This invaluable proposal would change that and accommodate for the wealth of religions traditions found in the UK.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law places an artificial and unpopular barrier to what would easily be a very profitable and popular service for the maritime industry.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I believe the costs of this proposal would be minimal to each of those parties, and that the benefits in religious freedom and new economic opportunities for venues across the UK would far outweigh those costs.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXZ-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 02:26:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Unfortunately when I did get married I was unable to have a proper hand fasting as a Pagan. It would have meant a separate blessing as the civil service/registry office doesn't allow any religious whatsoever.

This was quite upsetting at the time.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I personally don't understand why it matters where a notice is posted or why the 7 day requirement is a needed.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Necessary especially post-COVID. Also more accessible for those couples who might be disabled or unable to attend otherwise.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is not only better for those with reduced mobility or other disabilities, it is safer post Covid

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who actually reads the wedding board things anyway?

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This one I have no opinion on

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems weirdly out of date

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDX8-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 08:25:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Pagan Federation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am happy for my details to be used if needed

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married in a civil ceremony and have had a pagan hand fasting ceremony also

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I knew we had to have a civil ceremony separately and as well as a religious one

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I am pagan and the only option for me was to have a separate legal ceremony. I would have liked to combine both

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be more flexible. With photo identification and the ability to trace people digitally it is easier to prove identification

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an excellent way to move forward with how things can be done

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days is a reasonable amount of time to wait.

I think that anything less unless it a special reason such as terminal illness is not required

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I still think it is important to see people face to face. As a former mental health nurse, I was always able to pick up on so much more this way than by telephone or other means

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree. There needs to be more flexibility around this if someone can be verified by a trusted official and further checks can be made if necessary

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there are no risks to safety, there is no reason why this cannot be accomplished.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure.

There can be lots of reasons why people change dates and there is no reason for such a lead time

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Information should be available

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are lots of reasons why there can be issues where a delay is unacceptable.  
As long as the person is of good standing and appropriate for the role.

Please share your views below:

In the case of funerals and sudden marriage due to illness , yes. It should be the couple's choice where possible of an appropriate celebrant with a qualification / standing in their religious life

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be freedom to have banns wherever you live, even for an Anglican wedding.  
There needs to be more flexibility

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure what this means

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

There is no reason to only do this, if other people getting married have to have banns posted elsewhere , it should be the same for all

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. It should be the same rules for all

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As above

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

See above

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be mandatory

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An appropriate religious / qualified celebrant should be able to legally officiate in the place of a registrar

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If all has been verified and there is no risk to that person, especially if the ceremony takes place in the registration office

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends what is meant by clerk

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be part of a governing authority and be suitably qualified, either religious or non religious. It should be the couples couple's choice of celebrant within such parameters.

Nominations are not a good idea as the couple may not get on with that particular nominated celebrant.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That does not make sense. How can a secular i.e. non religious organisation be defined as thus.

Just because an organisation does not adhere / identify with judeo/ Christian/ Islamic beliefs does not discount its validity as a religion.

As fas as I am concerned, a non religious belief system is just that. The humanist society would be able to manage such parameters and officiate accordingly as long as the celebrant was a member and suitably qualified.

Please share your views below:

The humanist society in my opinion would be able to manage this.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am a member of the Pagan Federation and have had Buddhist friends who would prefer an officiant from their faith to preside.

In regards of the Pagan Federation, handfasting was the original betrothal ceremony before the wedding mass.

I would have preferred my wedding to have been officiated by a pagan celebrant.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If the body is promoting purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

If there is discussion required regarding polygamous marriage, I am in agreement as long as all parties are consenting and above legal age.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

There should be couple's choice of celebrant within an organisation as long as they are qualified to do so

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone who wants to officiate as a celebrant should be suitably qualified, be a member of a governing body and be listed publicly and be accountable for their actions

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are suitably qualified and on a public list.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any officiant should be suitably qualified and have a standard recognised qualification as well as be a "fit and proper " person and be accountable for any decision

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally agree

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Expenses should be reclaimed and a nominal sum should be mandatory. There is no reason for exorbitant fees to be requested

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A conflict of interest is not acceptable. Exorbitant fees are also not acceptable. There should be a mandatory standard fee

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An independent celebrant should be able to prove that their work can either be in affiliation with a religious institution and they are suitably qualified

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is totally appropriate.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a national minimum qualification that should be taken and part of a public register.

Consultation Question 37:

No



Please expand on your answer:

It should be the government responsibility to monitor and maintain the authorization of recognised celebrant. If they are not compliant with the regulations they should be stopped and prosecuted

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally agree

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should have to register for a nominal sum every 5 years as per other registered professionals, such as Doctors, Nurses etc

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is no different to other professionals

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the above except the last part as the wedding should be legal on the finish of certain standard wording and the signing of the wedding certificate/ documents.

If the wedding is a special occasion because of terminal / illness and a party is too ill to sign, the wording should be sufficient

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Standard legal wording should be included as well as the couple and celebrant choice.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Personal choice as part of their faith should be possible

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be choice

Please share your views below:

If someone wants to include a recognised text or ceremony derivative from their religious organisation, it could be included if the celebrant has no objection to this.

If there is objection, a celebrant from their faith should be available to complete the ceremony under supervision of the registrar if desired

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the couples choice of how they want to celebrate their marriage

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be personal choice. if there is a risk to either party involved, it should be private

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is not dangerous, illegal or inappropriate morally it should be the couple's choice

Please share your views below:

The wedding should be able to be celebrated where the couple's choice is

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be able to be celebrated where the couple wish

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the religious organisation have no objection, the venue should be where the couple wish

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This much power is not a good idea. it should be negotiated

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe yes, dignified not necessarily up to the registrar to decide as long as it not illegal.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In regards of safety, yes

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the couple and registrar agree that it is safe to do so, it should go ahead

Please share your views below:

N/a

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Date and location should be mandatory. Parent information should be optional

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses should always be present

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage should be recognised as such only by an official ceremony with a recognised officiant

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lack of consent should be established at the time of the ceremony

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No issue

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree but the amount of notice must be 24 hours to enable interview and verification to take place

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Depending on the health of the individual to participate and fully consent, it should be valid

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All persons should be present, face to face to guard against coercion and illegality

No

Please expand on your answer:

Schedules should be able to be extended but no other changes made

No

Please expand on your answer:

Proof of terminal illness by a Doctor should be sufficient

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

If it is a registered and safe vessel, it should be allowed

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All information should be available

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only registered and recorded officiant should be able to conduct weddings

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If allowed it should be the same for everyone conducting a ceremony

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There is probably a lot of demand

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Expenses should be recoverable

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should not solely be up to registrar to decide upon the venue

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be standard rates for all officiants

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends what services are provided

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that any positive changes to facilitate ceremonies that are more flexible, of the couple's choice with an appropriate celebrant will improve the rate of marriage

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There should be a standard rate across the board for all officiants.

There should be no requirement to have a separate religious and civil ceremony

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Fees and expenses should be standardised for all officiants

Weddings are expensive enough and flexibility and diversity should be encouraged

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See above

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See previous answers

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It should be the couple's choice as to whether they marry in the uk from another area or abroad and should be encouraged, providing all legalities are met

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXW-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 09:27:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Pagan Federation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My parents were in an unrecognised marriage

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was a kid when they got married

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not my choice, I guess the divorce was easier and way cheaper

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:



In my personal experience, legal marriage is a sham - costs far too much and then even more when it doesn't work out - my parents did it right, pagan wedding in the living room and smash the chalice for divorce - simple, straight forward and inexpensive

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should be able to be held in a way that is respectful of a persons religion and/or personal beliefs, it is impossible for registrars or the government to oversee this or to issue such guidelines as there are many religions and each individual is independent and unique

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should not mean only Anglican religion but if a pagan wished to mention the old gods then that should be ok, other traditions should also be allowed such as jumping the broom etc

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The officiant and the selected venue

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXU-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 13:51:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My partner and I were due to be married in August 2020, but were forced to postpone due to the pandemic. We have rescheduled for August 2021.

As our notice of marriage will expire before August 2021 (we originally gave notice in December 2019), we have been forced to attend our local Registry Office again in person and pay the notice fee again (£35 x2), despite my partner being vulnerable to Covid-19 (meaning that we had been strictly limiting all social contact). This seemed nonsensical - the fee is not huge, but why should we have to pay twice? I did enquire about the fee being waived and was told that this had been permitted in some cases but we did not meet the criteria.

Our wedding was taking place in [REDACTED], while we live in [REDACTED]. My parents live in [REDACTED]. Since we don't own a car, not only would it have been very difficult to make the trip (especially if avoiding public transport due to partner being vulnerable), but the extra lockdown restrictions in the North-West meant that we couldn't stay with my parents as planned, so would have had to hire a car and make a seven to eight-hour round trip in one day. To all intents and purposes it was impossible for us to go ahead, even with no guests, despite the fact that weddings were permitted to take place by that point.

It also seemed ridiculous that we had to attend again in person to give notice when they had already checked all of our documents etc. None of our details had changed apart from the date of our postponed ceremony.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be very helpful to have this option. In this day and age I can't think why this should be a problem, and would give couples more flexibility.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I absolutely think it should be possible for interviews to take place remotely, especially in extenuating circumstances (such as a pandemic!) and where neither party is subject to immigration control or any kind of enhanced procedure.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Extremely important that parents should be able to be included equally, not just fathers (and with the more neutral "parent").

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law has absolutely delayed our marriage/prevented us from getting married when we would have liked to. After being unable to go ahead with our planned marriage in August 2020 due to the pandemic, we would have liked the option to have a simple legal ceremony as soon as possible, just to have the legal side/paperwork complete as quickly and cheaply as possible, to be followed by a full celebration with family and friends when possible.

However, our local registry office only offers a couple of slots per week for such basic ceremonies and therefore has extremely limited availability even in normal times (without the pandemic backlog), so we would have had to wait at least several months.

We are choosing to have a registrar marry us at an approved venue. We would much prefer to have a more personalised ceremony, but did not want the extra cost/hassle of having a celebrant (likely humanist) for the "proper" wedding day as well as a separate legal ceremony.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would be a huge advantage - particularly in terms of being able to have a meaningful and personalised ceremony without extra financial and administrative burden.

I feel it would also allow couples much more choice, and alleviate pressures on venues during the most popular times. Many venues get completely booked up 1-2 years in advance during the most popular times, so this would help couples wanting to get married at shorter notice (like us!).

Similarly, we are planning a small event with around 30-40 people. It was very difficult to find venues willing to accommodate us on weekends, especially during the summer. Having more options of different types of venues would have helped with this. We had to choose a Friday to allow us to be able to get a suitable venue for a reasonable price.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXR-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 14:11:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Rev. [REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Fellowship of Isis

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am happy for anything I say here to be public.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Privately-celebrated handfasting.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fully aware of the non-recognition in law

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Personal choice. Both had been legally married before.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Have concerns as to automatic recognition of partner as next-of-kin without specific legal authorisation.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No issues

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I conducted a handfasting (which was non-binding in law of course) for a couple, outdoors (on the beach) with no other persons present. This was by the choice of the couple. A few other potential clients have delayed their plans due to Covid issues.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not a concern for me

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I consider in-person interview still to be a necessity at some point to prevent fraud, forced marriage or other malpractice

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I would presume that all plans would be published online as well as posted on the registrar's notice board

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

As above, disagree and suggest in-person interview always required except in cases of extreme illness or other very exceptional circumstances.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No issue

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Risk of harm should be defined so as to exclude any but the most serious cases.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No issue

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems desirable given expanded role of officiant

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course

Please share your views below:

I see no reason why this should be so, except as above when original clearly unable to proceed.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be an optional matter for the Anglican churches, and of no legal significance

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above, that's the Churches' responsibility not the states

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not my concern

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Even though is is supplementary to legal preliminaries, any officiant (and of any religion) should have this power if they wish to exercise it.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree, and further that the declarations should be made without the other person present, even though remainder of interview is joint.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All persons should fulfill the same civil legal preliminaries. Anglican churches may add whatever they wish, but of no legal significance

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Entirely reasonable

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am a little unsure as to the meaning of this. Clearly a religious wedding in any tradition will involve a religious celebrant / officiant. it is not appropriate to ask a registration officer to perform religious rites. However, the responsibility of registration officers to exclude any religious content in a primarily civil

wedding is not necessary.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no need for two if proper preliminaries have been conducted to avoid fraud or forced marriage.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would be churlish of me to refuse them this traditional right - nonetheless if training is legally required for other officiants (including clergy of other religions) it should surely be required also for Anglicans.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure as to the likely interpretation of 'religious organisation'. I do not know whether my organisation - the Fellowship of Isis - is so recognized by the state at present. It should be as open as possible and officiants themselves should be provided with adequate training (in the administrative and legal responsibilities) before being recognized.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Do not wish to limit what Humanists etc may do

Please share your views below:

Inclined to agree - there is surely no need for a stamp-collectors' wedding as such...

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the present day, a group's members may be physically remote from one another. No group with reasonable identity should be excluded. It should be ensured that the officiants themselves are adequately trained for legal / administrative requirements.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

That rather depends on what 'public policy' and 'morality' are defined actually to be. As per previous answers, the state should only be concerned with the proper actions of the officiant, not their views.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think not. They should be named individuals (with certified training for the legal responsibilities)

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One trusts that any registration fee will be minimal

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pagan traditions may not wish to have specific organisational nomination.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but some training as to competence legal and administrative requirements still required

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I think this should also apply to religious groups. In general, spiritual practice in no way implies administrative competence.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Up to this point, for small religious groups such as mine, celebrants have been obliged to fund from their own pockets even minimal 'marketing' such as having a website. Furthermore, fees are likely to be taxable on a personal basis. The principle is fine but moderation in application may be necessary.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest that all officiants (including religious ones) should include their basic fee (excluding travel expenses etc) in registration information.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Pagans can readily be part of multiple 'organisations' without conflict and also function 'independently' in a mode separate from and organisation. If the officiant is properly trained / certified then there is no need for this restriction.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure as to what might violate this principle!

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that it does not grossly restrain the participants.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But should also be a mechanism for public challenge if necessary.

Consultation Question 38:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to customary rules of appeal and open evidence against the person concerned.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, subject to appeal and open investigation

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No need

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Continuing professional development should apply to all officiants, not only independents

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Re point 4, seems ambiguous. Expression of consent may happen early in the ceremony. So inclined to think the marriage should be legally formed on signing the declaration after conclusion of ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Can see no good reason why a couple should be obliged to take part in any ceremony not agreed to by them

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not my concern

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is currently an unreasonable restriction on participants and registrars to be obliged to exclude vaguer forms of religious content

Please share your views below:

Subject to constraints of time etc, should be possible for any participant other than the couple (including religious personnel) to make some form of blessing and some simple form of additional religiously-significant action by the couple.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not my concern I think since refers to Christians etc - irrelevant once other changes made.

At present, my ceremonies often take place after a basic civil ceremony but once these legal changes made, legal and religious ceremony will be unified.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not entirely convinced of this. The requirement for open doors / public access suggests that the marriage ceremony is a public declaration, legally recognized, not something purely personal. It is surely so rare for disruption to occur because of this openness requirement that it could be retained.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Pagan couples very typically want to be married out of doors (though weather and access complicate this)

Please share your views below:

Should be no restriction - though as above I am inclined to feel that notional right of public access / witness is appropriate even in a private home

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, provided that the public are not actually wholly excluded

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Smaller religious organisations have problems with ownership of appropriate venues. No need for any restrictions if relevant local parties agree.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Approved by whom? I think the officiant has a right to refuse a location they feel inappropriate. No need for any further approval.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safety issues should be a part of officiant training / certification. Ideas of dignity do vary somewhat.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance - no absolute proscription

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course, no need to keep getting approvals - this is really just for marketing purposes. But of course if people wish to be married on a beach, at a stone circle, or other 'non-standard' location, there should be no restriction on this.

Please share your views below:

Local registrars should be able to do this.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure of the need to identify parents (and their occupations) except for the interest of subsequent historians. My own parents are indeed deceased (and yet, when applying for Prison Service authorisation I was obliged to state their last residence!) The identification of parents is fine in preliminaries, to prove eligibility etc, and these documents should be archived in the same way as actual marriage certification.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firmly support Welsh language rights

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But after 40 years of experience in IT, still inclined to think that hardcopy is best for such important legal documents!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These rules are quite clear

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that such failure should not prevent voiding of a marriage (which might easily be fraudulent or forced) if parties so wish.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No issue

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem to remove the old 'non-consummation' procedures.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Do not know what legal meaning this 'presumption' may have. Should be legally clear as to what marriage means. Nonetheless, the rights of cohabiting couples, for example with respect to property rentals, or any other joint actions, should not be constrained by whether or not they are married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Demonstration of lack of consent may be somewhat difficult after any significant time unless also accompanied by charge of rape.

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Of course

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I think that the maximum freedom should be extended to persons wishing to get married, with relaxation of regulations where compassionately necessary.

With respect to prisoners, I believe that the consent of the prison governor should no longer be required for a wedding to take place - even though other constraints on the prisoner(s) may remain. Some special provision may be needed when both parties are prisoners in separate institutions.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the necessary prioritization of such interviews

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No need for legal exceptions

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In real emergencies yet to be determined...

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot day what circumstances

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Compassion should apply

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no concern

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

do not see why the name of the officiant is not as relevant as in other circumstances

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

surely the same as when on land

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no issue

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

suggest compassion should apply in such cases, costs to be absorbed

### Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

but see above, no extra fee

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

of course

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

should only apply to generallocation approvals, not special (eg outdoor) locations desired by the parties

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

should be same for everywhere, not local-authority-specific

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

will diminish, since other officiants will become much more frequent outside register offices

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but should be consistent

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

suggest apply compassion and have the same fee as register office

### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

inclined to think no fee

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided this is modest, within the means of someone (like myself) who only infrequently performs celebrancy work, not set only for resource levels of large (Church) organisations with many weddings

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

In my circumstances, as a Pagan Celebrant, there are some couples who do not wish the expense and complication of double ceremony. I think therefore that these changes would increase the number of legal weddings.

Other couples in my experience do not care for the nature of civil / register office ceremonies at all, so if allowed to have a purely religious ceremony matching their beliefs, would indeed feel able to proceed with legal marriage.

No evidence other than personal discussion with couples.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I note that costs for Handfastings with myself as Celebrant are somewhat lower than those charged by register offices and other venues, and indeed more within the means of the couples concerned. This would suggest that more couples would take up legal marriage under the proposed new rules.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above. My services seem somewhat cheaper than those currently commercially available

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe that it is essential that the proposed changes do not greatly disadvantage individual celebrants such as myself, with benefits only to the 'wedding industry'.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

My clients have used a variety of venues, including hotels etc. as well as very-small-scale events. Would surely help larger businesses also for rules to change as proposed.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Undesirable that they should feel they need to do this.

But overseas residents are welcome here if they wish to be legally married in despite of more repressive legislation in their own countries

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

seems a duplicate question...

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I think it is important that for independent officiants and those associated with small religious groups costs be kept to absolute minimum.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXQ-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 14:34:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Covered Occasions Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

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What is your email address?

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Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No limits

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I work in the marquee industry, and so many clients wish to have the ceremony aspect at the family home, either remaining there for a reception, or moving onto another venue. So long as their love is genuine they should be able to do so.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The encouragement of couples to marry at home (or anywhere..) where they might need temporary structures would be a great boost to our industry which is frankly facing decimation by coronavirus. And we are just part of a much wider outdoor event industry, from riggers to event coordinators, florists, furniture suppliers, lighting techies, sound engineers, photographers, catering firms, bands and entertainers, security, power engineers, toilet

suppliers - an estimated 1.3 million tax payers who are watching their livelihoods disappear.

The outdoor events industry generates £30.4billion in gross added value to the UK economy, and employs over 500,000 people ([www.muta.org.uk](http://www.muta.org.uk)). It is worth saving, and any piece of good news would be welcome.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXC-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 15:18:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Fellowship of Isis, and  
Pagan Federation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have however been handfasted (pagan wedding) in the past, and also had a registry office wedding to make it legal. We would have preferred not to have had to organise two separate weddings, but for our handfasting to be legally recognised. It was the handfasting that was the real wedding to us.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We knew our handfasting would not be recognised by law from the start, so organised a registry office wedding as well.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We had a legally binding wedding as well as a spiritually binding one, but would have preferred them to be one and the same.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a, but there would be consequences regarding inheritance rights and other legal rights if we weren't legally married

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I didn't feel that the registry office wedding was particularly meaningful. It was a very short and basic ceremony with no spiritual meaning, and we did it purely to have the legally binding side of marriage. It did not reflect our spiritual beliefs which are very important to us, so our main wedding was our handfasting which was a longer ceremony with various friends taking part.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience, other than a friend's handfasting being cancelled.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be free to marry where they want, perhaps at a site that is sacred to them

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see the need for in person interview. What's wrong with Skype or Zoom?

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes Zoom and Skype and other such video meeting facilities have proven very successful during lockdown and save a lot of travelling.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

N/a

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think any celebrant performing a wedding should meet with the couple first.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No. Together is fine

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a registration officer is also a priest/ess of a minority religion, then they should be able to officiate. A religious ceremony for that religion.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As a pagan priestess I operate within a variety of belief systems, and when performing handfasting, work with the belief system of the couple to be handfasted. This could be any of a variety of pagan religions, or just wanting something nature-based and Nonreligious. I don't see why a celebrant cannot do both.

I also belong to different pagan organisations as well as having my own pagan path, and if working within the confines of one of the organisations, might not be able to perform a handfasting/wedding for those who follow another path I teach and follow, if this rule is in place, and I see no reason for that.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Loose guidelines only covering legal side.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be some government regulation and that people should be able to make complaints to an overall professional body for celebrants.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as proper processes of examination of the case and appeal are in place.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though some guidance as to what constitutes cpd is necessary

Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDX5-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 16:05:26

## About you

What is your name?

Name:

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

## Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

## Chapter 1: Introduction

### Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am joining this consultation on behalf of my daughter who is a Christian and future son-in-law who is not. They would like an outdoor wedding in a beautiful licensed venue they have already booked but would have liked the ceremony to be performed by the pastor from her former church. It seems absurd in this day and age that no religious content is allowed outside a religious building – after all God is present in nature and creation isn't he?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My Christian marriage is recognised by law, my daughter's marriage will also be recognised by law if it is a civil ceremony, but my question is why can't some religious content be brought into a civil ceremony if the couple of requests it and the minister agrees? Why can't a Christian minister perform a wedding ceremony in a licensed venue other than a church?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This for me is not about it being legally binding. It's about couples having a choice as to venue and who is allowed to marry them in which venue.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

This legal barrier to having any religious content in a civil venue/ceremony seems archaic and outdated in this day and age. There are many couples where one might be of a religious persuasion and the other not so, where they would like to compromise as a couple and combine elements of a religious and civil ceremony.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have two daughters getting married. The one I am speaking about above has her wedding booked for next June so we are hoping and praying this will not be affected by the pandemic. My eldest daughter however was supposed to be getting married in July of this year in Malta. Obviously that had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The venue gave them another date in October but now travel restrictions have been put in place for Malta and the uncertainty over whether these will be lifted in time or whether guests will have to quarantine on their return has put their plans into disarray again.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no particular feelings on this.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense.

#### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days seems reasonable to me, but I have no particular feelings on this..

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This sounds reasonable to me.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I have no particular feelings on this.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no particular feelings on this.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no particular feelings on this.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no particular feelings on this.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense to me.

Please share your views below:

I have no particular feelings on this.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no particular feelings on this.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

That makes sense to me.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think it's important for clergy to meet the couple and check documentation.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Sounds like a good idea.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the legal duty to do these things is very important. What I don't understand is why a church minister can't do it at an outdoor venue if they can legally do it in a church. Surely God is present in the outdoor venue as well.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as people/venues are licensed why can't the venues and officiants be mixed and matched?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely one is enough – why overcomplicate things?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems this would give a bit more flexibility in what at the moment seems to be a very rigid institution.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about this!

Please share your views below:

Not sure about this either. Organisations

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Of course the law should exclude any organisation that is seen to be unlawful or immoral.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I don't know

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure – other people might need to be involved if the organisation itself is not reliable.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, yes, yes to the first part of this question! Please allow religious content at a civil ceremony if the couple want it. As to the second part, why on earth can't you have a religious service in an outdoor/alternative venue? Surely God is present everywhere. Why in weddings is God only allowed if the ceremony is performed in the church? That makes no sense at all to me.

Please share your views below:

For our daughter's wedding which is in an outdoor venue we would have liked her former church minister to perform the ceremony just as she does in church, with prayers, songs and all the elements of the church service but in an outdoor venue. We were horrified to find that not only could she not do this, but that no religious content at all would be allowed at the wedding. Why on earth should God not be able to play a part just because the wedding isn't in the church building? We would be happy for the civil registrar to be there as well to do all the legal bits, but why on earth can't the church minister perform her part as well? Why does it have to be all or nothing?

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't really understand this. Why not have a religious service after a civil ceremony if you want it?

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within reason - maybe not a brothel?

Please share your views below:

I think weddings should be able to take place in any venue of the couples choice as long as the officiant agrees it is suitable.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure about a non-religious wedding being performed in a religious venue, but if a non-religious couple wanted to get married in a church, say, if they did this in agreement with the minister/vicar of the church I don't see why it would be a problem.

I can't understand at all why you shouldn't be able to have a religious wedding in a "non-religious belief" venue. The venue doesn't have a belief – it's the people that have the belief. I repeat – God is everywhere!

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think there needs to be much more flexibility over who is allowed to officiate a wedding and where it can take place. If the officiant (religious or not) agrees to the suitability of the venue (whether a religious building or not) why can't they be mixed and matched? Especially where a location frequently hosts weddings, why can't a minister of religion (who frequently officiates at church weddings) conduct the wedding? My big question is why is God not allowed in 'secular' venues???

Please share your views below:

If there is a pre-approval process, the officiant should do it in consultation with the venue.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of any problems with any of these

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but they shouldn't have to wait long for obvious reasons

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't see why it matters which type of vessel as long as there is a qualified officiant present

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I'm sure there is demand and I don't see why it should make any difference whether the ceremony is religious or not

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think if marriage ceremonies were made more flexible more people would get married. I see no reason behind the complications and rules/regulations particularly around outdoor venues and being able to use either a religious or nonreligious officiant or including religious content at a “non-religious” venue.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs are astronomical and should be reduced to make them more affordable for couples.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My views all hinge around the issue of allowing some religious input in a non-religious setting. It seems ludicrous to me that this is not allowed at the moment and the law should be changed to make it possible.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think the costs are high but this is not the main issue for me.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The ability of venues to host weddings officiated by religious officiants is really important to me as I'm sure it must be to other couples who might want some religious input in their non-religious venue

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know what impact it would have on local authorities

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know what benefits it would have for local authorities

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think it would benefit the Maritime industry

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think it would benefit the Maritime industry

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure what impact these proposals would have on the cost

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXJ-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 17:47:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a registry office. Husband is atheist and I am pagan so had to use this option.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Married legally.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Married legally.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The world has changed and people are more mobile.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, don't think that one can get an impression of body language fully on the screen.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes.



Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Online also, the world is so much more online these days.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Why only Anglican? Shouldn't all couples be met before banns?

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As above, same for all beliefs.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

A no and b yes.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure who would be the relevant governing authority of pagan weddings as it is such a large organisation and so I think guidance is needed here.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure they need to teach people as the people wanting to be married will most likely know about the faith/belief system they are already in.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, as Paganism is such a huge belief system which has little hierarchy, who is to say someone is fit and proper? I think further guidance is needed here.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Refer to my previous answer.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Profit before duty, no!

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only to do with ensuring that it is properly legal.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But who decides this in Paganism? As someone once said, if you ask 4 pagans the same question, you get 6 answers!

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I like some religious music but could not have this at my civil wedding. And as long as bith parties agree to have religious parts to their civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Music.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Wherever people are comfortable but in public to make sure no one is being married against their will in a private home, unless one or both of the parties is housebound.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Persons to be married should decide as long as it is in a public place.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should not have to agree as long as health and safety is observed and it doesn't go against the personal views of the officiant, i.e. held in an abattoir if the officiant is vegetarian etc.!

Please share your views below:

Guidance from the general registrar office and regular spot checks with officiants before the ceremony.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with number 4.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with 2 and 3.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with 1 ii. Don't see why people should have to opt into anything because of their sexuality.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not all married couples live together.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not sure. What is meant by the law governing?

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Still need to know if they fully appreciate what they are doing.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't think it should be done remotely as can't see body language fully to ensure both are consenting adults.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

All with the consent of both about to marry and if ok with officiant, i.e. health and safety and moral/ethical ideas of officiant not in opposition, i.e. vegetarian officiant on whaling boat!

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Let people marry wherever they want to as long as it is properly legal.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it only covers fuel and actual time spent at a reasonable rate that does not prohibit those that are disabled and not able to get to a meeting from getting married as disabled people are far more likely to be in poverty because of our inadequate benefits system. Perhaps a special rate for disabled people on benefits?

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

2, i refer to my answer above.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But lower for disabled people, see answer above.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I refer to my answer above.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

1.

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to corruption.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Think disabled people on benefits should have a discounted fee.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities should all agree a fee structure but this should take into account locality as london prices will be higher than most, for example. Perhaps linked to property prices?



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs to all belief systems which will be interesting to see how that is shared out!!!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDX7-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-04 20:05:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Pagan Federation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I understood the law regarding marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It was my choice to marry legally. I wanted my husband to be my next of kin and we wanted to have the right to make decisions on behalf of each other if one of us was incapacitated. We wanted to the legal reassurance being married gives - e.g. property rights, inheritance, etc.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

40 years ago when we got married, we did not know that there was any alternative to the mainstream Christian wedding. If we were to get married now - we would want a Pagan ceremony so currently we would need a registry office wedding and a separate handfasting. This involves all sorts of unnecessary expense and stress and takes away meaning from the religious ceremony. It would be much simpler and meaningful if the registration could be incorporated into the religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

A friend has tried to organise their wedding - it is difficult for them to make arrangements when the guidelines keep changing.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be some public declaration of intent so that, if somebody knows of a legal impediment, they can declare it before the ceremony takes place.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is an "in person" interview necessary? What would be asked at the interview? What would be the legal status of the interview? Surely all the relevant questions could be answered with the celebrant or registrar.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious issue and should not be entered into lightly - having a week or more to make arrangements gives time for the authorities to consider whether they think somebody is being coerced.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible to conduct remote interviews because - if the marriage is conducted by a celebrant - the celebrant is another line of defence against sham or forced marriages. If a celebrant is found to have performed a sham ceremony then the marriages they have performed can be investigated.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes - it should be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this means that - from the date of the interview - the couple have a year to organise their ceremony - that seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You could also include an arrangement where there can be an emergency celebrant registered if both the celebrants are struck by sudden illness.

Please share your views below:

It would not be very easy to police the reason for the original officiant's non appearance - so maybe it would be sensible for a legally licenced substitute to be allowed anyway.

If celebrants are licenced and given legal status - they will be governed by professional standards so there is a degree of protection.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is up to the Anglicans.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am sure the Anglicans can work out their own rules.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/A - as a Pagan - I think the Anglicans should decide on any issues to do with Anglican ceremonies - I understand that the Anglican Church is part of The Establishment - but I think they should discuss this sort of issue within their own synod.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The Anglicans need to decide on this.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Up to the Anglicans.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All religious and civil groups should be required to follow the same rules so Anglicans/Church of England should follow the same rules in law as every other group.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing much to add. The correct completion of the marriage certificate is very important - I don't see why "Anglican preliminaries" are relevant to anybody except Anglicans.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It depends what you mean by a registration officer. Surely if a registration officer is also a member of a religious group, they should be able to officiate there too. I do think it should be possible for people appropriate within each religious (or not religious) organisation to be registered as celebrants and registrars and given appropriate training to conduct the civil side of the ceremony alongside the religious (or humanist etc) ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is a robust checking system to ensure that people are not being forced into marriage, etc - one person is capable of doing the job. I assume that there will continue to be witnesses to the marriage and there will have been the interview so it seems that one person would be able to take responsibility for the ceremony.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be appropriate training offered to the "priests" or leaders of any religious or humanist group so that they can conduct wedding ceremonies. If Vicars and ministers of the Church of Wales are appropriately qualified and have received the appropriate training - possibly as part of their ordination training - they should be recognised as officiants. I would like to see a situation where there is equality and I think we should stop favouring particular churches over other religious groups.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that marriages should be undertaken by suitably qualified people and I can see that the government will want to have some way of deciding who is suitably qualified so being ratified by national or local religious groups is a good way to do that. I don't see why the Church of England needs to be exempt from this arrangement - surely they are already doing that by nominating their clergy to conduct weddings.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I have no strong views about other organisations. As a Pagan, I would like our "religious group" to be able to conduct legally binding handfastings. I would like to see ordinary people being able to have ceremonies that are meaningful to them.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a reasonable proposal. Seeing the figure at 20 people may mean that there will be a lot of proposed officiants but that is probably a good thing if it means that people can have the ceremony they want. On the other hand, there may need to be some monitoring of the groups or the officiants - it should probably be necessary to do a training course and pass it to ensure that people are safe and small extremist groups are not being enabled to gain credibility.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I would agree that the groups who can nominate should be lawful groups who can abide by 2010 Equalities Act, etc. In my previous answer I suggested that it might be wise for celebrants to have to pass a training course and there may need to be some monitoring of the groups or the officiants - it should

probably be necessary to do a training course and pass it to ensure that people are safe and small extremist groups are not being enabled to gain credibility..

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

If you are suggesting that the Grand High Whatever is immediately nominated upon gaining that office - I think that is a matter for the nominating groups to decide. It seems more sensible to nominate named individuals who might have some aptitude and talent for being a celebrant but I don't think the government can micro-manage the activities of small groups of 20 people.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some gravitas and accountability - being a celebrant should not be taken lightly as people's precious memories and their future happiness could be at stake. So even if somebody becomes a fully trained celebrant just to perform one ceremony for special friends - they should still find themselves listed on a General Register for at least a year and they should still be accountable for the work that they do.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it should be allowed to ensure that everybody has an opportunity but those independent officiants should be vetted to ensure that they are properly qualified in some way and should pass a training course. People's special memories and future happiness is too important for there not to be some system to hold officiants to account.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This depends on your definition of fit and proper persons. However, I would agree that people who are proposed should have some reason for being proposed so the organisation should be able to offer some explanation as to why they have proposed a particular person.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants will incur expenses and should be properly recompensed for the time they spend officiating at wedding ceremonies. Currently Anglican ministers charge for their time - there is a fee of approximately £500 for marrying in an Anglican church . Perhaps the government - or the religious groups concerned - could set a scale of charges or publish advice - I am sure that celebrants can waive the fee should it be appropriate. I would suggest they let market forces decide - if people want to charge and other people are prepared to pay - the market will quickly decide which celebrants survive.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't quite know what conflict of interest you have in mind.

I think all celebrants should be treated the same so whether people are independent or nominated by an organisation, the rules should be the same.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think there should be a limit on how many organisations can nominate an officiant or a restriction on who they use - as long as that officiant has been properly trained and is in good standing with whatever regulatory body governs officiants.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - and no. Personally I think that marriage is an important ceremony and should be conducted with dignity and solemnity and I think officiants should refuse to officiate if they think that the ceremony is being treated as a joke. I think the officiant should have responsibility to ensure the marriage is legal and properly conducted. However, if some people choose to have a ceremony which does not seem dignified or solemn to some people, that is their choice and - as long as the marriage itself is legally performed - people should not be restricted if they want to be creative.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it allows for individual organisations to have their wedding ceremonies conducted as they wish.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be independent checking of officiants' work. The organisation that nominated should be able to withdraw their authorisation if they can prove that an officiant is failing to comply with the fit and proper person standardisation but - especially in small groups - there is a chance that there will be internal politicking so it would be best if the General Register had the final say.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be a regular review of officiants - maybe licencing for five or 10 years .

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Traditionally the moment of marriage is when - the couple having declared that they are free to marry, given consent to the marriage and exchanged vows and tokens - the officiant declares that they are married. I appreciate that there may be a legal moment in case the ceremony is interrupted.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to see all religious groups treated equally so all groups should be able to impose their own requirements as a matter of their own practice and the rules should be framed so that they are the same for everybody.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

People should be free to choose religious readings and religious music that have meaning to them and also include a reference to religion in their vows - if they so choose.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Repealing this restricts people's choice - if people choose to continue to have civil ceremonies followed by another religious ceremony - that is their choice.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is one way of safeguarding and preventing forced marriages and it is important that participants understand the public and solemn nature of the ceremony.

That said - it would be good for Pagans to have this repealed as we cast a circle and once the circle is cast nobody should enter or leave until the ceremony is completed so a symbolic closing of the doors when we've established that these people have the right to marry and come here by their own free will is a nice moment in the ceremony.

Equally - as some groups can be hostile to other groups - being able to restrict entry to the ceremony is likely to be useful in some circumstances.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A wedding should take place in a place that is meaningful to the couple concerned.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although there does need to be some way to ensure that the marriage is not forced - so if this is the case, there needs to be some way to be sure that people are not being taken to inaccessible places and coerced into marriage.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No



Please expand on your answer:

I found the wording of this question a little confusing - people should be able to have the ceremony they want, in the place they want, with the officiant they want as long as everybody (including the venue, etc) agrees. So I don't agree that - e.g. a church should be forced to allow civil ceremonies but that it should be permitted.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The venue must agree.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly agree that everybody should be safe and personally think dignity is important. I imagine that celebrants will be able to ensure this but I worry about these words being enshrined in law because I think these words are open to argument - e.g. if somebody wants to perform their ceremony in the air during a skydive - that is not safe - and that is the point! Also getting married in a circus tent may not seem dignified to some people so - in the training perhaps - there might need to be a discussion or definition of "dignity" and how it should be applied to wedding venues.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is guidance rather than a legal requirements - thereby allowing those who need it some leeway. Obviously any venue should be appropriately insured.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is optional. This could be part of the initial interview. This might also be part of a venue's insurance.

Please share your views below:

I am not sure there should be a pre-approval process - public buildings will be appropriately insured and have suitable venues. Other venues might need the officiant to ensure a risk assessment has been conducted to ensure it is safe.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure - in this day and age - that the names and occupations of the parties' parents is as relevant as it once was but it would be good to continue with the traditions that we have.

I assume we are still including the name and occupations of the parties and their witnesses.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It might be good if couples who speak another language could pay to obtain a certificate in that language too.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure that this matters much as marriages are now recorded online anyway. Having a wedding certificate is traditional.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I partially agree. I agree there should be notice to marry to the registration service. Religious groups - including Anglicans - can then also do whatever is necessary in their own traditions.

No 2 - agreed.

No 3 - the knowledge of either party. If somebody is tricked into marriage with an unauthorised officiant, they should have the right to void the ceremony. But equally - if the officiant is unauthorised - surely the marriage is not legal anyway.

No 4 - if same sex marriages are legal - they are legal. I can understand that a church that did not agree with them might be unhappy that the ceremony was performed in their venue but it should not void the marriage as it is legal in law. However the officiant should be heavily reprimanded if something like that took place.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

2 - surely somebody else can stand in?

3 - this is still a serious matter - but can be corrected as soon as the omission is discovered.

### Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no idea why same sex couples would choose to be married in a tradition that does not accept their union but - if the marriage is legal in law - the religious tradition should not be able to stop people being married.

### Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think people should be required to cohabit if they choose not to but there should be a presumption that they are free to do so and - if they are getting married - they have some reason for wishing to be in an exclusive and binding relationship to each other.

A refusal to cohabit should be a reason for annulment.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We should keep any laws that protect those in a "Common law marriage" - especially the rights of children in a breakup and there should be proper settlements to ensure that the financial interests of vulnerable people - e.g. somebody who gave up their career to support somebody they cohabited with - are protected. People should not be punished for cohabiting without being married.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no time limit for voiding a marriage where there was coercion or lack of consent - although I appreciate that, as time goes on, it gets harder to prove.

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I hope that the law will be made simple - easy to understand and will support equality.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that registration officers should have a duty to be prepared for emergency interviews as there may be a very short time frame (hours!) for a deathbed marriage. I think that the interview might even take place just before the ceremony. I also think it is important that the deathbed marriage is conducted in such a way that it has the same validity as any other marriage.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only in very extreme situations and for limited periods - the marriage could then be validated when the emergency was over.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

British naval vessels. Possibly any British registered ship - not if they are registered under a flag of convenience.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why they wouldn't give the name of the officiant. Are the Captains of British Ships to be officiants? In which case they could just list The Captain?

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All proper paperwork should be completed just as if it were a land wedding.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

If people choose to conduct a religious ceremony on a ship - that is their choice and that choice should be permitted in law. Any legal marriage ceremony should be acceptable.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People who are housebound are often disabled and people with less money.  
It would be fairer to charge everybody enough to cover the cost of visiting those people.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Frequently the situation for somebody who is terminally ill will involve a rush and the possibility that there will not be much money available - trying to find a registration fee on top of everything else is very stressful.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be sensible for the venue to pay to be included on a register.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be sensible for the venue to pay any fee.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Charges should be fair and advised in advance.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Charges should be fair and advised in advance.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Charges should be fair and advised in advance.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Charges should be fair and advised in advance.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Charges should be fair and advised in advance.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that the proposals would enable people to have the service they want - all in one place and one time - rather than having the stress and inconvenience of having to have two separate ceremonies.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It seems there would be a fairer distribution of costs and less wasted money.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not have any evidence but it seems as if it would be fairer.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No particular view. I am sure the costs will work themselves out. If you allow officiants to be registration officers then there will be availability.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Making the system more equal and uniform will help all sorts of people to have the wedding they want. Hopefully there will be increased business opportunities for officiants and for venues.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no expertise in this area.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no expertise in this area.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no expertise in this area.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no expertise in this area.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no expertise in this area.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no expertise in this area.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have no expertise in this area.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDD8-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-05 07:09:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

NA

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I married under the provisions of MA 1949 i am satisfied it is valid

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The current laws prevented couples from marrying throughout COVID - rightly -due to the no of people required to participate at the venue. No easements were made in the Coronavirus Act to maintain the 'flow' of ceremonies, which will continue to impact couples , businesses, the registration service and government departments for sometime. However, If marriage/CPs were permitted outside and we changed to a celebrant model... this may have been managed better with less long term impact.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its archaic and social mobility can make this difficult for some people to meet.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems to fit in with a number of government initiatives to streamline services. Would there be online verification of information prior to the face to face Interview ? Will the online 'form' start the waiting period? Or will that start after the face to face and sight of documents?

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I think the current 28 days is reasonable. Especially as there is provision to reduce that period in exceptional circumstances . It's probably an issue for people living overseas though. O

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think in person interviews should continue with people presenting originals of documents at the interviews. Otherwise I think the opportunity for fraudulent activity will increase greatly. The impact of which may be financially detrimental to the country and there may be a victim who suffers social, personal, financial and Mental health impacts. I believe the opportunities for Sham marriage/ forced marriage etc Would increase without Maintaining face to face , in person Interviews

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Same reasons as above - I think an increased opportunity for fraud may still be present in some cases.  
Reasonable to keep provisions for all of the above ... but repeal British Subjects Facilities Acts . However I'm not sure how to manage British nats returning to Marry Here who do not have the 28/30 days available after the face to face notice appointment. But how many of them are there of these notice situations each year?

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I can see the advantage of this - but protections for local authorities and registration officers would have to be tight to ensure they are not open to excessive and unreasonable complaints /queries which may be malicious or have undue impact on their resources .

Consultation Question 10:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

However, could there be a clause to allow an extension of the validity in any future pandemic / emergency legislation in future as this type of easement would have helped a lot of people during Covid and reduced impacts on the registration service

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable where appropriate- each officiant should also be 'registered' and their unique identifier be included alongside their name ... But like a gmc no for drs

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Will the reasons for a/c placement officiant be exhaustive?

Please share your views below:

If another Officiant attends will validity of the marriage be affected?

As long as officiant who actually attend / witnesses & signs is registered the reason the original one couldn't attend shouldn't matter.?

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think all preliminaries should be civil

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think all legal preliminaries should be civil - however the Anglican or others may wish to continue / introduce non legally required provisions.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think all legal preliminaries should be civil.

I think all couples should be seen in person and documents checked.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I think all legal preliminaries should be civil.

There should be declarations made by the couple - and an enforceable penalty for false information

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think all legal preliminaries should be civil.

This would support equality.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All seem reasonable

### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no distinction between civil / religious / non religious - the legal element should be the same Everywhere completed by officiant/ registration officer. Once completed registration officer can leave - then couple have whatever embellishments the venue permits... These could be done by Registration officer if agreed with venue in advance and time / activities are costed.

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Equality with CP process.

### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think they should be registered as with every other officiant. Standardisation of process Or we end up with a 2 tier system.

### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to build in a provision for Independent religions / non religious belief organisations who do not have governing authority.

### Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think regardless of your belief system a commitment to a legal union under the relevant legislation is key to maintain equality.

Please share your views below:

Remove the distinction between religions / non religious / civil to drive equality .

### Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Make the system a government led process to drive and support equality.

### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Make it a civil / government led process

### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Make it a civil / government led process

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems the appropriate place as they perform a similar role now.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems correct central place for the work

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

how is fit and proper determined and supported?

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ensure criteria is very clear.

Ensure provisions in any legislation clearly cover impacts on the ceremonies / penalties for the officiant for falsely claiming the above

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ooo that's a difficult one - there could be restrictions/ parameters around the non registration officers - officiant hrs / fees they can charge and or location they operate in.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You would need to clearly define what a conflict of interest is.

I think fees should be capped.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Make it a civil / government led process

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle yes - but Make it like a cp- it's the signing of the document that creates the legal union.

Couple can do What they want after the doc is signed.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense and will maintain consistency and hopefully equality for marriage and CP

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Make it a civil / government led process .... but any complaint will be investigated.

Give registration district authority to oversee Day to day quality on schedules and gro complaints with RG having ability to withdraw the authorisation while complaint pending or based on information submitted. should be clear what circumstances will affect validity of marriage

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think local register office in area they are authorised should oversee day to day quality on schedules etc but complaints refer to gro for investigation and final decision.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should have to re register periodically and if they fail to they are removed from the 'list'

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who will provide the continuing professional development? Will there be cost recovery or fees for the government GRO or registration service providing that Development and certification?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think marriage should mirror the CP process's. the signing if the schedule forms the union. A ceremony / exchange of vows is optional. Declarations about being free to marry and consenting to marry should be in the schedule for both parties to sign. Also witnesses and officiant should have a similar declaration about legal elements witnessed and couple each signed the consent to marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Schedule signing in a non civil marriage should take place at starts of proceedings so couple are married and everything is equal for all religious non religious and civil.

Embellishments/ rituals do not then form part of the legal union.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Schedule signing in a civil marriage should take place at start of proceedings so couple are married and everything is equal for all religious / non religious and civil weddings.

Embellishments/ rituals do not then form part of the legal union.

Please share your views below:

Schedule signing in a non civil marriage should take place at start of proceedings so couple are married and everything is equal for all religious / non religious and civil.

Embellishments/ rituals do not then form part of the legal union.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's important for marriages not to become Secretive or Inaccessible for equality / safeguarding / people trafficking or sham marriage purposes. Is there an issue with this part of the legislation at present?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I disagree with 'in the air' Like hot air balloons , planes - underwater etc... but in/on a describable tangible location should be permitted. Must extend to CPs too

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, public accessibility seems to be archaic. If no public access there should be provisions the venue if marriage is 'accessible' by The public on the day for certain purposes eg to lodge a valid objection. But make clear what the parameters are.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Remove these restrictions to encourage diversity / integration and better understanding and Improved relations between the 'buildings' who wish to avail themselves if the opportunities This may provide

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a joint agreement/contract between Officiant and the person responsible for the place if marriage.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local authority in district where building is located And GRO jointly

Similar to how buildings are currently registered for marriages and APs appointed just stop registering the buildings, start registering the people instead

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This supports other transformation activities within the home office

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Voiding provisions need to be made clear and solid to avoid delays for couples where there is an issue . Process to remedy if marriage found to be void later but couple were unaware at the time.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'd make the signing of the schedule For point at which the couple are married ( same as a cp).

I agree no:1

But not 2or3

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with I but not I.

If schedule being signed becomes the point the marriage is contracted ... the consent will be signed in the schedule.,

By non qualifying do you mean void ... if so - please make that clear and use the same language through out.,

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Basic clear lines needed to determine this

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provide clear statements regarding this . Include references to marriages under the new provisions - if and what is agreed - Alsoboutside England and Wales or overseas

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be clear indication of affects on marriage validity ( voiding provisions) and consequences for the officiant ( Eg revoke registration ).

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None I am aware of

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without the process , it's open to fraud.

Safeguarding, Sham, capacity and duress may increase otherwise.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Parity with other circumstances

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Parity with other circumstances

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should have been agreed as part of pandemic planning

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Parity with other circumstances

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would that be evidenced? List of conditions / circumstances it applies to?  
Or still drs letter with specific wording??

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this is agreed ...?need to ensure the parameters are very clear!

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With clear parameters

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes with clear parameters

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Notice declarations to include they understand it has to be a person registered under xxx act for England /wales

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No idea ...



Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This affects government records / processes / stats ...

ship should be responsible for scanning a copy to GRO in set timescale with original required with in 2nd timescale to release issue of certificates

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Cost recovery with option to reduce / not take fee if there is hardship etc... scenarios to be agreed

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With periodical re certification process and cost .  
This is to ensure there is valid information available.  
I think it should be in public domain too

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Seems to be a modernisation of the marriage laws which is long overdue .  
It will make process more accessible and logical  
Will bring parity with CPs

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It needs to go further. Stop registering buildings for marriage. Register the person.  
This will mean can repeal worship Act 1855.  
Don't distinguish between civil/ religious / non religious Marriage - schedule signing married the couple... everything else that goes on doesn't impact validity then regardless of beliefs.  
Costs May reduce for some couples who can marry without having to pay venue costs if marriages can take place outside etc. In a marquee etc...

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Increased opportunity for buildings to be used.  
Increased choice for couples  
More streamlined system for public and government.  
No idea in costs

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No idea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Na

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More flexibility with venues may encourage more people to marry in England & Wales From overseas and the UK  
Possible business opportunities will be created .

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Same question as above

More flexibility with venues may encourage more people to marry in England & Wales From overseas and the UK

Possible business opportunities will be created .

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No idea

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDE-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-05 08:23:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

FOIC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I would want a pagan wedding and this would not be possible legally with the current laws.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes most couples are genuinely marrying for good intentions and the internet and zoom have shown themselves to be a great way of holding meetings remotely over lockdown.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So the wedding can go ahead

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Celebrant organisations

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes I don't think unlawful organisations should be able to marry people

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes non religious organizations should be able to nominate officiants. Many people are not religious so this gives them the opportunity to be represented

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree this is important to the public and provides a form of regulation

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be treated as any other job where people are able to make a living at being a celebrant

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be able to be authorised in a reasonable amount of time

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A minimal amount of professional development should be undertaken to keep up with wedding laws etc

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be able to be married in the way they choose

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be able to choose who they want at their wedding

## Chapter 7: Location



Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

People should be able to get married where they want to

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think date and location of wedding should be mentioned but that the parents are not important

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

All types

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on the circumstances and ability to pay

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think it will enable more people to marry as they will be able to marry in the way they choose.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It will reduce the need to have a registrar and a celebrant

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Reducing these needs reduces costs and makes it easier to get married in one go in the place that people want to get married.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I would hope the wedding industry would grow and become more diverse. More venues and people could become involved

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It will be easier

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The cost to couple will reflect the style of wedding the want and they will be able to choose what they want to spend where and on whom they want to officiate.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDB-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-05 11:35:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England Diocese

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interview is fine as long as there is a clear understanding that resources will be needed to ensure in-person interviews can be offered promptly.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

There should be flexibility.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to divide the United Kingdom in this way.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The current system for banns works well and I see no need to replace it. Having officiated at many marriage services and announced banns for many couples, most appreciate the contact with the church and chance to get to know the person who will officiate at their service.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The current system works well. All Anglican clergy have access to the diocesan legal officer (Registrar) who ensures that documents are checked.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This does make sense for a Special License.

#### Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England is still the established church and the only reason for stopping Anglican preliminaries would be a prejudice against the status of the Church of England. Couples appreciate the personal and pastoral service that we offer.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need in Anglican churches. Clergy are trained to do this.

#### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:



This would open the floodgates to huge numbers of organisations some of whom may not have good governance / legal structures in place.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree, though this will be tricky to define.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What safeguarding checks would be done? What minimum standards would be adopted?

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would this be monitored / enforced?

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No mention of safeguarding training.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is very important. They must be able to cover costs, but should not make a profit.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limit on fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is important. The institution of marriage has been a bedrock of society and if it is trivialised the consequences will be felt far and wide.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there needs to be a national body which carries this responsibility. Many small organisations may not be well equipped to monitor this themselves or to take robust action.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be reviewed every five or so years with evidence supplied to ensure they continue to fulfil the criteria.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Such a free for all undermines the significance of marriage. Some guidance needs to be given.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Simple prayers and readings from holy books.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public ceremony. It should not be done in private.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This risks privatising and trivialising a very important institution.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

I have no problem with outdoor ceremonies but anything else risks privatising and trivialising a very important institution.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be public.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but there should be clear guidance on what is suitable.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

GRO

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDD2-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-05 15:16:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

KNT

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not married or in a civil partnership yet, plans had to be postponed because of the pandemic

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

issues with inheritance and life insurance premium for my cohabitating partner

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

high costs of wedding venues, incapacity of the council to book us for a ceremony

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



Bromley council doesn't have the capacity to book for a ceremony and doesn't have an office to celebrate it but only expensive venues

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

yes remotely would be a great idea, we really need this as a legal act first to have our relationship recognised by the law. we can do the ceremony at a later date wherever we want.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

any organisation that promotes unlawful / immoral values should be banned but it might be difficult to set straightforward criteria

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

fees should be reasonable and capped

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

organisations are usually bad at self-regulation

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Consultation Question 89:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDR-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-05 17:11:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The wearing of face coverings and the lack of guests have made weddings almost impossissble

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If I couple have been refused permission to marry in a district, for whatever reason, they could just move around the country until they find a district willing to marry them. We have found this with suspected sham marriages

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, I feel they should be conducted in person. How could you be sure someone wasn't being forced or have capacity if you couldn't see them? How would you know you were actually speaking to the correct person? someone could be answering on their behalf.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not unless the couple actually request a certain officiant I cant see the point.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think its very difficult to name the officiant in advance as there are lots of reasons that they cannot attend.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Hopefully there will not be another war, but it could be damaged by terrorism or other reasons

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think this is a good idea

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

good idea

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple want a religious ceremony then they would want a religious person (priest etc) to marry them

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, it is my understanding that Registers and Marriage Certificates will be abolished.

Everyone I have spoken to is saddened by this. I feel that the signing of the register and presentation of the marriage certificate at the end of the ceremony is a very significant part of the ceremony.

If a wedding will be at a licenced venue (as it is now) then possibly one registration officer could attend but if it is in a private house or other venue there is a huge health and safety issue for the lone worker!

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely if you want a religious ceremony then you would like a vicar to officiate?

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Of course, or it would make a mockery of the wedding

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely, if you do not have dignity or solemnity then is it a marriage or just a lark?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree very strongly

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, in the first instance but I think all officiants should be responsible to GRO and should be licenced accordingly. At the moment the venue is licensed but as in the USA, the celebrant should be licensed.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within certain parameters surrounding legality and decency

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I don't think that a reference to God or a hymn should not be able to be sung

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple would like a civil ceremony but would like some blessing by a religious person during the wedding I cant see that it should not be allowed

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a person has a lawful reason to object to the wedding surely they should be allowed access?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be good to give couples a choice of venue or location but ANYWHERE? Public toilets?

Please share your views below:

Possibly, but who would be responsible for policing the venues? Private homes can be lovely but could also be flea infested ! If you go up in an aeroplane who would make sure it was airworthy, or seaworthy in the case of a boat. There must be some risk assessment done surely?

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Objections could not be raised. This could also be the case if you allow boats, aeroplanes etc?

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

why would you want a religious ceremony in a non religious location, or vice versa? But if you did I cant see it would make any difference

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would mean the officiant would have to visit the location beforehand. This would have to be factored into the cost of the wedding

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definately

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local authorities?

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in principle but it would mean that tracing ancestors and looking up family trees in the future would be compromised if families couldn't speak welsh?

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe, but if the internet goes down?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:



Please share your views below:

I presume these can be taken into account

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes within reason

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly, if going to war

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Should be a proper vessels

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The sad thing about not having a marriage certificate after the wedding is when you go on honeymoon to some countries, especially UAE, you must prove you are married if you want a double room. Also what will happen if you take the signed schedule on honeymoon and lose it?

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I would think maybe more people would enjoy the freedom of choice but I think things should be taken into consideration regarding alcohol etc if not monitored by a front of house as it is at the present time. Maybe a cost element may also be beneficial if getting married at home but I do not think that this should be at a cost to the integrity of the marriage vows, for example a nude marriage in a mens toilet!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDD6-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-05 19:03:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Quaker Meeting

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remotely as there are many circumstances (eg terminal illness) where remote interviews would be good

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Leave decision to CofE

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Equality for ALL under the law CoFE is a minority religion & should not be faaorded special status

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why add rules that you don't need?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't promote on religion over others. we are all equal.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why do you want to prescribe things. Its fine by me if Live Action Roleplayers or bricklayers or Trades Unions want to have their own marriages. Who am I or you to decide that for them?

Please share your views below:

None - see above

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 should read "... their belief or aims, and"

2 why see previous comments

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No Irrelevant if organisations promote illegality etc you should be able to address them directly in the courts not trying to use marriage as a stick to beat them

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes - save the bureaucracy

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More bureaucracy . who pays for training? etc,

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would that be a problem?

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Dignity fine

Solemn - well that's very personal I've been at weddings full of joy & humour that some would see as not solemn

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Silly bureaucracy CPD is a silly game being played in several [professions, turn away now!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Quaker Meeting Houses are regularly hired out why restrict the use of our building which we do not see as sacred or special in any way - its just a building so why limit how we use it?

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why have more rules than you need?

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

3 is irrelevant and may be an embarrassment to those who cannot answer.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

4 sounds VERY wrong. Would it force Religious organisations to promote same sex marriage? That might be hurtful...

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why the notice period?

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why crew. Why not anyone who is an approved officiant?

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDD-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-05 22:57:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Self employed celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think couples should be able to get married wherever is most special to them. This will often be somewhere other than where they live. This will enable them to do that.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will give couples a lot more freedom to choose where they marry, and make the necessary legal administration easier for them to access.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think it's important to make it possible for interviews to be conducted remotely. Obviously in circumstances like we've had with the Covid 19 restrictions this would be a much safer way of doing things, but even in normal circumstances it would make things easier. People with disabilities may find travel difficult and remote interviews would certainly help with that. Also time/work constraints would be eased.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be possible. There should be as few obstacles as possible to prevent couples from celebrating the marriage they want.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages are no longer just "local affairs", and so it's useful for anyone who has an interest in the marriage to be able to see the relevant information.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't have any strong feelings about the timescale, but this seems perfectly reasonable.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would think this is essential. A marriage shouldn't be postponed or delayed because of the availability of the named officiant. As long as the substitute is a registered officiant, I can't see why this would be a problem.

Please share your views below:

As long as an officiant is a professional, I think any contribution they make should have a beneficial effect, even a substitute.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It's going to depend on the changes made UK wide. I think any new marriage laws should be designed to make things simpler for the couples, including geographical considerations.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any UK law that includes the term "war damage" is probably out of date, and therefore should be changed or amended to bring them up to date.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As a celebrant, Anglican marriages are out of my area of knowledge. I think whatever is right for the couples involved is the important thing.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think this is reasonable, however I think it should be acceptable to do this online if that is easier for the couples involved.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both parties should make a declaration, but this could be done remotely if needed.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

If the preliminaries are consistent across the board, this should simplify the process. It wouldn't prevent anyone from having a religious ceremony if they choose to do so.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The legalities need to be dealt with, but I feel any officiant with the relevant training should be allowed to conduct a marriage.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly members of a church should officiate at a religious ceremony, but I think it should be legal to include religious elements in a civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

One person is capable of dealing with the necessary elements of a civil wedding.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they've had the relevant training then yes. If not, no.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The relevant authorities, religious or non-religious, should oversee the legitimacy of their officiants, but the couples should be able to choose who they wish to perform their ceremony from a list of registered officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For me, that description has undertones of a religious nature, which may confuse couples looking for a non-religious ceremony. I feel a definition of "no affiliations to any organised religion" would be clearer.

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure this would be necessary. An initial meeting between the officiant and the couple, remotely or in person, should give both parties enough information to decide if the officiant is the right one for the ceremony.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It's a difficult question. I feel that, if a couple want a specific person to officiate at their wedding, and that person is trained in the required legalities to conduct that ceremony, that should be allowed.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation or individual that promotes unlawful or immoral purposes should be nowhere near any aspect of a wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

If the nominees are fully trained, they should be eligible equally.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's important that officiants should be regulated.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants are more likely to be able to give a couple a bespoke, personal ceremony, which is often more desirable. They should definitely be allowed to register.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As with any other profession, there should be regulations and standards that need to be adhered to.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely essential I'd have thought.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously, very few officiants will be working for free, so most will be "making a business of officiating at weddings". Unless you standardise fees for ceremonies, which would be difficult due to the vast range of ceremonies that will be being conducted, it would be very difficult to regulate.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremonies will vary quite considerably, and the time officiants work on the preparations will also vary, so their fees should reflect that.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If someone is trained and registered to officiate at weddings, they shouldn't be limited to which ceremonies they are eligible to conduct.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's a serious subject, it should be treated as such.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, guidance would be useful and welcome, but officiants should have the latitude to deliver bespoke weddings as long as the legalities are adhered to.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although independent officiants wouldn't be monitored this way.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it's imperative that all officiants keep up to date with any changes to the law regarding weddings, and cpd is very important to anyone serious about what they do.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a very personal thing and should be conducted according to the wishes of the couple getting married.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious groups should have the right to decide who is eligible for their wedding ceremonies. But the choice of ceremony should be open to anyone.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples may comprise one religious, one non-religious person. This would make it more suitable to both participants. Also, sometimes families and friends of non-religious couples would like to have a hymn or prayer included.

Please share your views below:

Hymns.

Prayers.

Bible readings.

Blessings.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing religious content in a civil ceremony should negate the need for a subsequent religious ceremony, but this should still be an option for couples that want it.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should be permitted to be held wherever the couple wants.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the legalities are taken care of, anywhere should be permissible.

Please share your views below:

As above, a wedding ceremony should be permissible anywhere, as long as it's conducted by a registered officiant.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

A venue may hold some personal importance for the couple, regardless of the religious/non-religious designation of the venue itself.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that should be the couple's responsibility, but the officiant should give guidance on the matter.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe definitely. Dignified is a more subjective thing. Maybe inoffensive rather than dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance certainly, but there should be some latitude to customise a ceremony for a couple's specific wishes.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The venue should have guidelines that the officiant and the couple agree to in writing.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Choice is always important.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We live in a digital age, some people would probably prefer this. It should be optional though.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think number 2 is something that should render a marriage void.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples often work in different places, requiring them to live apart.

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple are against marriage for any reason but have cohabited for a long time, they should have certain rights the same as married couples, but they shouldn't be considered to be married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If there was a lack of consent, there's no time limit on that fact.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Allowing any venue to be used as a wedding venue will certainly help people who don't necessarily have access to certain types of venue. As it stands at the moment, limited use of venues could be seen as discriminatory, such as in the case of people who are housebound.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult to say. It depends to an extent on the life expectancy of the individual. There should be an exemption made for people with limited time left.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would simplify the system and the legalities.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The last few months have shown that we all need to be flexible. This would reduce some of the stresses of the couples intending to get married.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple are married according to UK laws and regulations, they should be able to have the ceremony anywhere.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As above.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Couples may want someone who is not part of the crew as their officiant. They should be able to choose from any registered officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any UK registered officiant should be acceptable to conduct a legal marriage anywhere in the world for a UK couple.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Probably some demand. People are getting more creative when it comes to weddings, so if and when any venue is considered legal, there will probably be a lot more demand for "exotic location" weddings.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicalities would suggest this is a sensible idea.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems the fairest way to deal with this.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Shouldn't need to explain that.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As with everything else, it should be about choice.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Things like this should be standardised.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe less for people who are housebound.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that relaxing the laws on marriage to include independent celebrants/officiants, unlimited venue possibilities, and personalised ceremonies will lead to more marriages. Some of the current laws are outdated and not suitable for modern couples.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs can be very prohibitive, and may well put people off the idea of marriage altogether. And if a couple wants a personalised ceremony, having to have a separate wedding is an added cost and inconvenience.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Some couples will want a very small, personal, intimate ceremony, that isn't really suited to current venues, and they don't want to spend a lot of money on their weddings, for various reasons. Being able to hold ceremonies anywhere will enable them to have the wedding they want at an affordable price. There will be more choice when it comes to dates and times, which can be a very important consideration. And it will all be done in one bespoke ceremony, without having to have a separate wedding, which will be easier to organise.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The last few months have shown that the law on approved premises needs to change. So many weddings have had to be cancelled because of restrictions, and a lot of these couples could have had a smaller but timely wedding if the new laws were in place.

Venue costs would surely come down if anywhere could be used as a venue, which would help a lot of couples. And the venues themselves would presumably incur less costs if they didn't have to register.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



The increase in weddings brought about by these reforms will benefit a lot of businesses, since the wedding market is already huge in the UK. As well as increases in the businesses already involved in producing wedding goods and services, there will be a whole new market for people to provide different venues.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not really something I've thought about.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There will be financial benefits, due to increased trade for wedding goods providers, and increased venue hire. If marketed well, the local authorities could increase tourist activity based on the new venues and weddings opportunities.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Any laws that have been added to over the course of years, decades or even centuries are going to be much less easy to navigate than one newly consolidated set of laws. Some of the current laws can be quite discouraging to some people.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It's just got to be easier if everything is simplified and standardised across the board, and people are given more opportunities and more choices where their weddings are concerned, wherever they are from.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no knowledge of this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again, financially, these reforms could be of benefit to the maritime industry.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

For the government the cost will be mostly in working hours, consulting on and (hopefully) implementing and regulating the proposed changes. A lot of businesses could potentially benefit from the proposed changes. A few registered venues may lose a bit of business once there is more choice available.

The main costs will be in the training and regulating of officiants to a standard level, which will impact the individual officiants and any organisations they belong to.

The costs for the couples may be reduced due to the wider choices available.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDS-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-06 09:32:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have been married and am now divorced. I was legally married at a registry office, and later that day we had a humanist ceremony outdoors as this was the closest possible way, to reflect our (and our families' diverse beliefs) to express our love for one another

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hence we married quickly at the registry office

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It was important to us not to offend our families made up of Catholics, Protestants, agnostics and atheists.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I'm view ofCovid, this seems sensible

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Again this sounds sensible

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think if Anglican preliminaries are deemed acceptable, the preliminaries of other churches and faith organisations should also be acceptable. Standards can and probably should be required to ensure parity.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And in the same way, so should other churches and faiths be treated

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Membership may need clarification - is this nationally or in each individual place of worship? and the arbitrary figure of 20 (if local rather than national) will exclude many smaller organisations and churches

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

That seems sensible

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is entirely possible for people to hold pleuralistic views and to conduct religious and non religious ceremonies. Prohibition seems irrelevant and unnecessary.

Quaker's for example may include both religious and non-religious members as with unitarians.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This depends on provision of religious and non-religious organisations to conduct legally binding ceremonies. Unintentionally, this may exclude some people's religious beliefs from inclusion in ceremonies

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,

Please share your views below:

There should be a requirement for environmental consideration when outdoors.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Making such stipulations disallows marriage between people of different beliefs

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any pre-existing marriage of either party

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the presence of witnesses is important to retain as a requirement

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not without stringent environmental considerations

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Someone who is housebound is likely To be less able to pay such a fee

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDJ-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-06 09:33:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Please select

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Could reasonably also be added to the proposed online public register.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes

2. Should have the legal right, but not requirement.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

It's difficult to imagine it making a difference to the small number of marriages of convenience. If you're lying to your future spouse, you're probably going to lie in this circumstance too.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is that not already the case?

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some religious groups without recognised clergy (eg Open Brethren) have official registrars who are permitted to carry out religious ceremonies in the place where the congregation meets. This needs to continue.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Governing authority is ok if this can mean internal governing authority. Many religious groups are not part of a wider or umbrella organisation i.e. a congregation may be self-governing.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil weddings are available for those who don't want a religious ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This could be open to significant abuse and vexatious legal battles. Currently this would probably be around same sex marriage, but could in the future focus on issues, including whether religion or lack of it is contrary to morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Broadly, yes, but possibly should be subject to a db's check or similar to winkle out fraudsters, people traffickers etc.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Maximum fee should be set centrally.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Please share your views below:

Weddings in private homes lack the essential public quality of a wedding.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure 3 is still relevant.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

One of either 2 or 3 should have happened for a marriage to be valid.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 yes, 3 and 4 no.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And the fee for this should be as low as possible.

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD67-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-06 16:05:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Boughton House

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Northamptonshire

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a Approved Venue we were unable to operate as a wedding venue or show people around the location with a view to future weddings throughout the lock down period. Show rounds are now possible but continued restrictions and uncertainty does mean that we are not experiencing many enquiries.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This seems logical, especially given the current restrictions in an epidemic which may not be lifted for some time to come and reimposed again at a future date.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This seems logical.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem a good length of time but I think that a ability to request and be granted an extension would be appropriate.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Naming a specific individual up to a year ahead - it depends on how easy it is for the amendment to be made.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems logical

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand why this would be an issue?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Either that or online?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I am happy for them to do so.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This would be difficult and likely ever changing.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure plus who and how would a "sincerely held belief about marriage." be defined, agreed and confirmed?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agreed - BUT perhaps some form of training should be required for any such person to ensure that they can perform their duties correctly.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some form of training should be required for any such person to ensure that they can perform their duties correctly before they can be designated as such.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think if they are performing a valued service and often acting on behalf of a non profit organisation than a charge should be able to be made, especially if independent operators are able to do so.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure - costs should depend on the task being carried out but also they should not be able to charge exorbitant rates.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think a sensible person can do both in different circumstances and for different people.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle yes but concerned about the suitability and safety of some potential venues - also the potential for disturbance for local residents which should be considered - particular in public spaces, private homes.

Weddings often continue late into the night and the disturbance potential could be high.

In terms of Health and Safety and parking, some spaces will not be suitable for an event.

Please share your views below:

All these have higher potential risk and or levels of disturbance to those not involved in the event.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Concern that this could provide a officiant with too much power and the ability to veto venues that they do not like.

It also could provide a opportunity for officiants to ask for referral fees or similar in order to approve a given venue above and beyond any fee that they might charge for their duties.

A pre-approved venue should not have to be confirmed by an officiant unless they have concerns about it which should be raised with the Registration Service or equivalent.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A pre-approved venue should not have to be confirmed by an officiant unless they have concerns about it which should be raised with the Registration Service or equivalent.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A pre-approved venue should not have to be confirmed by an officiant unless they have concerns about it which should be raised with the Registration Service or equivalent.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be extremely important serving both as reassurance to a couple and to avoid issues with officiants.

A annual fee to be on the register would be acceptable to cover administration and other costs as long as it not too high.

Please share your views below:

Registration Service or equivalent.

Initially all those currently operating as approved should be able to move to the pre-approved status with some form of confirmation as there is now with the paid licence fee

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I do not know.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I see no issue - warships and other registered / official vessels seem sensible

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes it does due to religion and restrictions even within approved venues

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many of the above are prohibitive but its also worth remembering that some venues now chosen may cause with other locals or authorities.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This should all be helpful

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It should be positive

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It allows far more flexibility to provide the wedding that a couple/family would like and so would be a benefit.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law does restricts choice but it does help safeguard couples , venues and other residents of a given area.

For instance - currently a couple could love the save but would want to have a ceremony outside but they can not. we can undertake such a ceremony without additional impact on the surrounding area or residents.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Debatable - there may be much more paper work and monitoring required of individuals as well as the possibility of events taking place in unsuitable locations causing safety concerns or breach of the peace.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not sure

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

There may be much more paper work and monitoring required of individual officiants as well as the possibility of events taking place in unsuitable locations causing safety concerns or breach of the peace.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD69-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 04:38:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Awaiting the possibility of a legal pagan wedding

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The current law prevents me from having a religious Wiccan ceremony

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what difference this makes. Local registrations for ceremonies elsewhere could still be published online.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The attendance at an interview is essential to ensure that each party is fully consenting and that the relationship has a legitimate basis. Not sure if finding ways around this is helpful. If it is, whom does it advantage, and what could be the potential impact, both positive and negative?

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I personally think seven days is worryingly short.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This should be an exception rather than the rule, and there should be exemplar circumstances that would qualify.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Only if the ceremony is to be conducted in the registration jurisdiction.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I welcome the increased transparency. Not including notices online should be subject to considered criteria as to what constitutes harm.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Twelve months seems adequate.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The naming of a specific individual is a bit of a hostage to fortune as things change; unless the issuing of an amended schedule were free of charge, the schedule should not be restricted in this way.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this needs to have no financial impact on the couple who has such as misfortune.

Please share your views below:

None that I can think of.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As this extends into another faith's practices I do not feel it appropriate to respond.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is not my faith and therefore I have no view.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion on this.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

If couples marrying in this way are not obliged to visit a registrar's office then such actions are justified and necessary to protect the integrity of marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

If it helps protect the integrity of marriage and assists in the avoidance of any form of sham or forced marriage then I have no objections.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

We are in a modern age with limited regular CoE or CoW church attendance. Exempting what is now a minority (i.e. regular Anglican worshippers) from robust standardised preliminaries seems a little out of kilter, albeit that it is technically the state religion.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is vital that any marriage ceremony is conducted in accordance with the law along with any requirements associated with faith, where applicable.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that they are trained and licensed by their local Registrar, humanist celebrants and other (non-Christian) faith-based clergy should be permitted to fulfil this role where other conditions do not allow for it to be deemed a religious marriage.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

One individual should be able to officiate alone; however, this need not be a registration officer provided that the officiant is trained and officially licenced by the Registrar.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion as I do not know enough about these individuals to comment.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In principle, yes. However, within the Pagan community we are quite eclectic and encompass a number of paths, some religious and some more secular. Provided that the Pagan Federation is able to do this for our community, then I would be content. That said, they need to be permitted to do so for both religious (eg Wicca) and secular groupings.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This supports the integrity of marriage as a solemn rite, and not something to be taken lightly .

Please share your views below:

Yes - the examples provided in the consultation document make a good starting point. What is key is that non-religious organisations should have a central focus related to philosophical (if not quasi-spiritual) questions.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

From a pagan perspective, our most predominant religious grouping is Wicca. Due to historical prejudice, meetings are not the norm and where they are is often cloaked with secrecy. For that reason, many cannot find covens or groves to participate in and so there are many more solitary practitioners than members of covens or groves - albeit that most solitaires do convene regularly online to discuss and further beliefs.

If you were to include the Pagan Federation, which has a nationwide system of moots (but is mixed with religious and secular participants) and treated them as one, this would be acceptable to me personally and most other active pagans.

Note that if the 20 is per active unit rather than at a national level, this is potentially worrying - both for excluding my large sections of my community and the potential for giving credence to dubious cults.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I have mixed views on this as for me marriage is a solemn rite and should be positively advocated in society. I have no problem with exclusion on the grounds of unlawful purposes. However, public policy is a very broad and frankly meaningless term - it's not the public's policy, it's the government's. Swaying to the tone of an individual government administration is, as history tells, a dangerous thing indeed. Similarly 'morality' is a very loaded term and not easily defined in perpetuity.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

In my view, all officiants should be trained and licensed to conduct such ceremonies. Nomination by office (unless subject to explicit associated requirements prior to practice) does not guarantee that the holder is able to act in line with the necessary legal requirements nor to give the couple the quality of ceremony that they deserve on what should be a very special day.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There absolutely needs to be a formal national register of approved officiants, available for searching by the public. I would personally go further and insist on proof of adequate training in both ceremonies and legal duty prior to enabling them to register to practice.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided that their suitability to undertake such an important rite of passage is assessed in the process.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems sensible to put the burden onto the nominating organisation. However, I suspect that lots of additional guidance will be needed to support all the aspects that need to be covered to enable those organisations who have not had this possibility before to do so effectively and robustly.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With respect to point 1, the age of 18 is too young - nut hopefully they will be few and far between. With respect to point 3, this training needs to encompass more than the legal aspects if they are to be truly fit to practice.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will help to deter charlatans. However, should a person who is sincere in their beliefs and conducts ceremonies in accordance with them happen to become financially successful because of it they should not be penalised.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This contradicts with the proposal to ban individuals from elevating profit above their beliefs. The GRO should set maximums for fees to avoid inappropriate profiteering and to protect consumers.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1, as 'independent' means independent. As regards 2, this is a tricky one for my rather eclectic pagan community, which has elements of both.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be entered with reverence and an intent for a lifelong contracted bond between the two parties.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be as much helpful guidance out there to support the conduct of ceremonies that are truly memorable to the couple for all the right reasons. A poor ceremony may have a significantly negative impact on that couple's future.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Thinking of organisations that would be new to this, it strikes me that the GRO should provide nominating organisations with appropriate guidance on how this might be undertaken.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, guidance for nominated officiants wouldn't go amiss here.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As with nominated officiants, proper guidance on how to ensure their continuing compliance could be helpfully prepared by the GRO.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming active CPD, this should not be an issue.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is going to depend on the CPD burden imposed and its availability to the individual. If the GRO plans to run a scheme for this, great. It could also be widened to less well-resourced religious and non-religious belief organisations to give wider benefit to both the institution of marriage and the sharing of ceremony experiences and practices across different communities of faith and those without.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There are often occasional 'religious' words in poems and songs that hitherto would have excluded their use. Sometimes there may be a hymn that is meaningful from a cultural or home nation perspective, such as Bread of Heaven or Jerusalem, and such an inclusion seems therefore acceptable. However, hymns with no such connotations, prayers or scripture readings should be avoided to maintain the civil flavour of the ceremony - particularly if the opportunity to have a wider range of faith-based weddings is enabled.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This really does depend on how wide the net will be opened for religious ceremonies. From my perspective as a pagan, I'd love to have a Wiccan handfasting that stands on its own as a legal wedding, but if not the next best thing is a civil ceremony followed by the religious rites.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With online publication of forthcoming weddings, this negates the need for making ceremonies open to the public.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is impractical.

Please share your views below:

The most important thing is the safety of those who are part of the ceremony and those who are in the nearby area, including other members of the community and any wildlife.

I am unconvinced of the wisdom of generally allowing weddings in private homes as most are too small to provide the space and usually lack parking, which would have a detrimental impact on neighbours. Remote and larger properties are more practical, but it would be unfair to treat people differently according to the size of their property.

On the water or in the air seem a bit odd to the average person, but provided they can be done practically I see no reason why not to permit them.

Outdoors is definitely one that should be available for those of us following Earth-based religions.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With upcoming marriages being posted online the need for public access is negated.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

In practice most will match their ceremony type to the venue type. However, there are a number of reasons to support flexibility. Firstly, religious and non-religious belief organisations are often not well funded and the extra income from venue hire would help. Secondly, couples should be able to choose what is the most practical and convenient venue to make their day special - things like parking, size, nearby accommodation will make a difference. Thirdly, if some religious organisations do not qualify to be recognised, adherents would welcome the flexibility to have their ceremony immediately followed by a religious rite without having to change venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to proper guidance from GRO about the criteria to apply, it seems sensible to delegate this legal and responsible duty to the officiant.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally agree .

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is welcome.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is one small aspect of making choices easier for couples at what is a very stressful time and supports businesses for whom this is a key income stream.

Please share your views below:

1. Either the GRO nationally or local registrars, with local information collated and held on a national searchable website.
2. A brief application form with a nominal fee to cover costs (thinking of non-commercial organisations too) leading to a visit where it is inspected by the relevant GRO or local official.

Alternatively, use the network of registered officiants (religious, non-religious, and independent) to build up a list of venues that they have personally assessed and share that online.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Thinking as a genealogist, I would support this as a supplementary form of registration rather than a replacement.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have insufficient knowledge as to why people don't then cohabit to have an opinion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's a formal legal contract

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consent is a huge issue and there should be no time limit for its victims who may well be coerced by their spouse and their families for a long time.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Insufficient knowledge to comment.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is key to protecting the potentially vulnerable.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any, provided that they meet the venue requirements of safe (size and sea-worthiness etc.) and dignified

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Although compassion is a factor, policies about fees should relate to the ability to pay - and someone housebound or detained may well be in more need than someone terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

I'd prefer a third option of the same fee as for attending any other ceremony not held in the registry office. As mentioned earlier, the ability to pay is more pertinent when it comes to fees. The housebound and the detained have no choice either and may be financially worse off.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Hard to say as a layperson. However I do believe that opening up who can officiate ceremonies to a wider range of faith groups and non-religious belief organisations (and in a wider range of venues) is a better reflection of our diverse society. Enabling couples to have a meaningful experience that will stay positively with them can only help strengthen their bond.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing is cheap, but again providing flexibility and removing unnecessary duplicate costs, will enable more couples to have the wedding that suits their ethos, beliefs, and pockets.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See my answers above.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No opinion

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6E-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 10:35:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not require any confidentiality whatsoever.  
My comments are for public observation.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am married under God's Law alone.  
The laws brought into effect by the will of men and women do now and always shall , sit below the law of God.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You are seeking to lead " Sheep " by the provision of blind shepherds.  
Stop this Athiest nonsense and deal with the real injustices out there in England.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See my answer above.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Absolute garbage.

Are you protecting some undefined minority interest somewhere ?

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Once the Law Society was a respected national organisation.

Now it is confirmed that it is nothing less than a pit of serpents .

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All places of worship were closed until July therefore ALL weddings were of course cancelled.

Has some minority group been singled out for harsh treatment ?

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for " legal interference " whatsoever.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

See my earlier answer.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Complete rubbish.

The marriage service worked perfectly well until ignorant , well meaning politicians were hectored into recognising same sex marriage.

Forever a stain against them.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What harm ?

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Leave well alone , please.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

As above.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As existing.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You are stepping into a place that does not concern you.  
Marriage is a Sacred Act between one man and one woman .  
That's it.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Complete nonsense.

If you don't agree with marriage as instituted over centuries, then don't go there.

Live lives away from marriage .

It is the choice of all individuals.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Public policy and morality ?

Pardon my laughter.

Can I suggest that the panel " consulting " on this matter first read God's Law .

From there everything will be made clear to you.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Children below the age of 12 know that these proposals are a complete sham.

Next you will be turning your expertise into bringing Sharia law into English Law .



Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No God equals no dignity and no solemnity.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I really could not have dreamed this up .

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to be an income stream for the Law Society.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You are going where even Angels would fear to tread.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You either marry in the sight of God or you don't.  
There is no pick and mix here .

Please share your views below:

See above.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Is this considered by anyone on the " Commission " to be Plain English ?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my earlier answers.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See earlier responses.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no knowledge of existing provisions proving inadequate.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Existing rules work perfectly well.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You are continually seeking to secularise the Sacred Act of Marriage.  
Nothing is required of the Law Society - Nothing.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

The question really should never be raised .  
Ever.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

See all of my earlier comments.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary.  
See existing legislation.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Your proposals are intended to further undermine the Marriage Act.  
Currently, those who wish to marry with a religious service are amply catered for.  
Those who wish to have a civil ceremony are also fully covered.  
There is no requirement for further legalistic involvement.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See previous answers.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No benefit whatsoever.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

As above.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See earlier comments.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No requirement for further local authority involvement.  
Marriage always has been a Sacred Act.

Mess with God's Law at your peril.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not necessary.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

All added cost.

Legal interference.

Totally unnecessary.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6N-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 11:14:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps this should be within the next 3 months, or similar - as interviews can be difficult to fix, with work commitments, and I think some flexibility should be available.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed, this is something which should be carried out - using the knowledge and expertise of the registrars.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely it doesn't matter who the officiant is, especially as couples tend not to know them

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ok, scrap pervious comment!

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Online as well as the church, which should satisfy most people

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, we should exclude specific organisations that do not adhere to the rule of law, eg Sharia, and where their laws differ from the rule of England and Wales

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is one of the main reasons why officiants or celebrants exist, making them legally allowed to marry someone would offer the flexibility to couples to be able to choose who marries them

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm uncertain where the "conflict of interest" comes to explain this...

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed - it's either religious or it's not!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this should be the over-arching registrar responsibility.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as all the preliminaries have been completed successfully

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, although some approval from registrars should be mandatory

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

All but private homes. I do not believe that the "solemnity of the occasion" can be complied with in private homes. I also consider the fire risk or health & safety aspects would probably not be adhered to.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree - I believe that any ceremony area should be available to the public, even if only at events or during specific appointments

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely it is down to each couple to decide rather than the law.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would say that approved premises are automatically be pre-approved by officiants, to ensure the "safe and dignified" ethos

Please share your views below:

Registrars

Pre-approved premises, as is currently the case

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no problem with this

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not certain that giving notice should be relevant, depending on the illness, but some interview process from the "governing" registration service should be suffice

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Naval or Merchant Navy vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not see a huge impact on these changes, except if the location were to include private houses. In fact, I'm all for them!

However, I do not believe that private houses should be considered for ceremonies, due to the health & safety aspects involved, but also the "solemnity of the occasion" being brought into question.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law affects a lot of our couples, as they would like to hold outside ceremonies - in our woodland for example, but because there's no "fixed structure" it cannot happen. By changing to the officiant approving the location, we would have much more flexibility to offer our couples. Once a venue has been approved by the registrars, couples should be able to choose a spot anywhere on our land, without the need for some arbitrary pergola or other fixed structure.

I also believe that the myriad of options - religious, non-religious, humanist, celebrant - has made it unnecessarily complicated. Making it simpler will be a boon to the wedding industry, which has been decimated by the current covid 19 pandemic.

Hopefully this is what you meant by this part!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above!

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See above

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. I still believe a venue should have pre-approval by the local authority/registrars
2. Only needing one officiant would be much better - and therefore a saving for all our couples.
3. A huge benefit to us and our couples
4. I see a change in style/type rather than a huge increase in the overall number of weddings... There may be an increase if there was a reduction in costs

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think our local authority does a good job, within the legal restrictions. Some simplification of the whole process is long overdue!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I'd say that a decrease in the numbers of officiants needing to attend each and every wedding would make for more availability to carry out weddings...

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is currently a bit complicated, but with computerisation we've seen an improvement on the processing. A lot of our couples are from other parts of the UK!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I see the reduction in costs to registry officers, but an increase in costs to celebrants or officiants, but only in the short term

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6U-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 12:47:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Please treat my address and telephone number as confidential. These are my private information.

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

This proposal is completely unnecessary. It is simply a push on behalf of the humanists agenda. There is already civil partnership provisions which cater for non-religious weddings.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6A-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 13:01:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I'm a catholic priest but responding as an individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Difficulties of course when it was unclear when weddings could take place again, however despite restrictions as in the rest of life a relatively normal and meaningful service can take place with fewer people.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It helpfully links the wedding celebration to a community

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is already complicated to ensure that couples are not trying to gain fraudulent residency - this will not help.

There is In my personal experience something helpful about the formal act of going to register the marriage that makes it a serious event.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need to rush this!

Getting married is not a decision to be made without reflection

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No - it makes it harder to spot sham marriages and makes a formal serious event too casual

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It would depend on whether it was possible to work in cooperation with local registration services in a Common wealth country or in Scotland

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is an interesting possibility as it is more likely to be a useful way of catching people out who are already married - however the abusive way in which the internet is routinely used makes me worry that 'trolls' let alone previous annoyed partners etc would abuse this process.

Also this brings us back to why a ridiculously short e.g. three day notification period as seems to be suggested by you is ineffective.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes that's pretty much as present

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It's not clear what the purpose of this proposal is - when a wedding is booked at a venue it is often not clear a year in advance which person will be the officiant - this seems to unnecessarily complicate matters - especially if due to illness there was a last minute substitution.

It seems aimed at replacing venue with celebrant.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In which case what is the purpose of such naming in the first place?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns are in practice the most positive way of giving notice - especially in e.g. a church in England context where it puts a very positive spin in presenting the couple to the community and their prayers.

It also undermines the ecclesiastical law which serves an important purpose. Archbishop's faculty has been a very useful prerogative also.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No because again this undermines the sense of both parties to the wedding being important, and the reality that there is a practical as well as a commendation aspect to the banns

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Your question is not clear as to what documentary evidence you are referring to - e.g. there is a significant difference between inspecting a baptism certificate which the clergyman should be expected to have some competence in and inspecting a birth certificate - this question is too general at present to be helpful.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Possibly - though in practice this already happens as a clergyman is clear when completing the banns form what is an impediment to the marriage.

This seems unnecessarily formally complicating.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - previous answers should make this clear.

It is an unnecessary undermining of the established church to remove this power.

It simply adds to the cost for the couple and their inconvenience.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems straightforward - not sure what you are proposing here that is different to the current position

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That again seems to be the current and obvious position.

They can't take a ceremony which is posited on a belief they don't hold.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again not sure what you are proposing here.

This seems to be the existing situation of a clerk in holy orders. I would support the continuation of the existing provision that they can officiate by virtue of being a clerk in holy orders.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not convinced of the need for non religious belief organisations to officiate at weddings.

The state has already seriously undermined the meaning of marriage to an extremely low common denominator - adding in non religious groups to further create different views of what marriage is makes it difficult for the state to have anything to legislate for and recognise

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I am against this but a list would be necessary if it were agreed to as the government needs to be clear what the couples are agreeing to!

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This becomes complex.

My basic position would be yes.

With the proviso that one needs to be careful not to thereby remove the traditional concept of marriage between one man and one woman from the concept of a legal marriage. There is also the issue here of gender as a church can not recognise the redefined gender as changing the biological sex of a person.

Consultation Question 27:



Please share your views below:

I have already argued that the existing provision of office in the Anglican churches should be retained.

However this is too difficult to regulate appropriate persons on the extremely enlarged franchise you propose. There would likely be no selection process, safeguarding etc in a group of 20 people.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If you were to proceed down this route

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not convinced of the purpose of such 'celebrants' most of whom in my experience are all about making money from people and charging exorbitant amounts.

Compare the price of a 'naming ceremony' to a baptism - which is free!

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but hopefully not the non religious ones in my opinion.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again my concern is while that might well be appropriate for an expanded franchise, I don't think the registrar general should be able to tell the church about their professional development in officiating at a wedding. They don't have the theological training for it.

This is of course quite different from advising about the legal necessities of paperwork, forms of agreed words etc

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle yes of course, while thinking this is difficult to regulate.

The Church of England fees are very low compared to prices for venues etc in weddings, but are set to be a reasonable contribution towards the building etc

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is an outrageous suggestion given your previous question.

Why do you think an independent celebrant should be able to exploit people for profit?

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But then the whole point of independent celebrants is that they straddle such beliefs by responding not with any personal authenticity but only reflecting that of their client.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though there will be a great discussion about what that means.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the proviso that this isn't used to penalise for and proper views about traditional marriage - which could lead to the inability of traditional Christian and other religious bodies to conduct weddings at all

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds all very reasonable. It depends on what that entails

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The oral declaration is important - and practically and psychologically quite different from signing a document which too many do perfunctorily.

This also completely misses the way in which there are still many functionally illiterate people.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

This phrasing undermines the way in which there is a definite content to the definition of marriage especially as understood in the traditional Christian and other religious communities.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the existing way in which these groups are dealt with and further attacks the legal position of the church of England as an established church.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's disrespectful to the religion

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a confusion here between the states recognition of a legal marriage and what is understood by many communities.

It would be viewed as an attack on communities

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If it isn't a public declaration then the state has no business being involved in marriage at all - and neither does the law society

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again an attack on religious groups for which a venue is often a sacred space and creates conflict with couples who don't always understand this if your suggestion were to be followed.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Might be appropriate for some civil marriages but complex for ensuring public safety

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - see above about the public nature of commitment to marriage if the marriage is to have relevance to society and to be recognised and regulated as such

Leaving aside the religious fact that marriage is about the two of you in relation to the community

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can't see the issue with a civil ceremony - which is already a non religious ceremony - taking place in a non religious ceremony location

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too nebulous and makes it hard to keep the public safe

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but again not in an onerous way

Other

Please expand on your answer:

And as I said this 'easing of restrictions' you propose becomes another layer of top heavy bureaucracy

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not only anglicans would have problem with the parent label - mother and father have specific meanings.

This isn't about feelings!

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle but the officiant must be conversant in the language!

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Lots of reasons - including the failure of electronic systems

Paperwork with registrars ink lasts hundreds of years

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absence of witnesses is problematic - they perform a real function in being able to testify the ceremony took place as reported.

Failure to register the wedding is serious - again how can you tell especially with. I witness if such a ceremony actually took place - add in your mistake criteria and it's a recipe for disaster

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation is a real part of marriage

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Panicked response to current crisis

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too easy to abuse

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should not be a money making opportunity

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe the current law does discourage people getting married - which they primarily do because either of the perceived legal benefit or an idea of what marriage is.

I do not think your proposals will on the whole help - they undermine existing religious provision - and increasingly it is this who still beliefs in marriage as an institution who continue to be married - it's not determined by the sort of convenience matters you are concerned with

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can only comment on religious weddings which are priced very cheaply in my experience.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

You really misunderstand the nature of wedding costs.

Weddings can take place under existing legislation very cheaply.

The costs are in the parties and accessories

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I dislike the business model approach you are advocating here

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have already mentioned a number of negative impacts to religious groups here - including a further watering down of the content of marriage - what is being agreed to and promised - and a. Inner of attacks on the established church - and despite protestations to the contrary our ability to self regulate.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6P-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 13:11:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Diocese, Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a Surrogate (Church of England) I have had to issue many Common Licences because Banns could not be read when the Churches were closed

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Enables greater degree of choice for location of marriage ceremony

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Confirmation of eligibility to marry is needed - covered by interview.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Why need there be any delay, assuming eligibility is confirmed. Twenty four hours might be acceptable.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-Person interview would be advised when concerns are there.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice is usually welcomed by those who know one of the couple to be married. Such a public event (getting married) should not be restricted in the giving of notice.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Notice is usually welcomed by those who know one of the couple to be married. Such a public event (getting married) should not be restricted in the giving of notice.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is plenty of time in which to arrange and host a ceremony! Suggest that 3 months might be more appropriate.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Availability of officiants changes over time

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Availability of officiants changes over time. Any replacement officiant should be a na authorised officiant, however.

Please share your views below:

Emergency (eg marriage ceremony in hospital when one of the couple is not expected to live until any planned ceremony)

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns confirm eligibility for marriage and reading them in the residence of one or both of the couple would increase confidence that there is no bar to marriage.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No longer relevant?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns confirm eligibility for marriage and reading them in the residence of one or both of the couple would increase confidence that there is no bar to marriage.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

As clergy I already call for documentary evidence and check it. Can also meet each of the couple separately if I have concerns - unsure that being required to meet them separately would be helpful.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As a Surrogate (authorised to apply for/issue Common Licences) I think that this might be a good idea - then there are declarations of fact in advance of signing registers at the ceremony. (Ensures that declarations of previous marriages/civil partnerships are made by both parties).

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I am confident that as clergy authorised to register and conduct weddings I take this responsibility seriously. When in doubt I am able to consult the Registrar to ensure that the preliminaries are correctly completed.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As CofE clergy this is already my duty

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no pressure on registration officers to officiate at a wedding which involves religious (or non-religious) elements with which the officer cannot agree.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Currently the position for me as CofE Clergy.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to be a retention of the current position.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming that there is approved training for the officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable!

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - such organisations recognised by Government as unlawful/contrary to public policy or morality (eg polygamy)

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Would seem to match the current status of CofE clergy

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the way that officiants could be recognised when issuing a schedule

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Extra burden on GRO though - would this be funded?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be part of the recognition of organisations.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Matches current arrangements

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fixed fees (as apply to the CofE) would eliminate this problem

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be limited to avoid unreasonable profit being made.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If authorized to officiate at weddings the person should be able to use any legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would help maintain the dignity and solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There has to be a 'backstop' to uphold the standards!

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would provide consistency

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good to have this clarification

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Confirms that it is meaningful consent and declaration.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are well-founded groups who take the responsibilities seriously.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would mean that meaningful words/music could now be included.

Please share your views below:

Decided and agreed by couple and officiant.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Services of Blessing (in the CofE) are much valued and taken seriously. Permission for this should be retained.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should continue to be the opportunity for objections to be raised - until the last moment!

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In the air is a little vague as to location - to whom should the registration be made?

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there is still a need for objections to be lodged so that access by the public should not be denied.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The content of the ceremony should be appropriate to the setting. A religious ceremony should be permitted anywhere but a non-religious ceremony not in a religious setting (consecrated church, temple, synagogue, mosque etc).

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No location should be used without the owner's consent. (eg I would not want non-religious ceremonies to be on church grounds)

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Avoid weddings on roller coasters!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO is well placed to offer such advice

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Addition of both parents would be welcomed.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems fair and reasonable

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would still want to retain paper documents - to keep church records complete

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses (as per a Will and other legal documents)

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Comprehensive

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Contract needed for marriage to exist?

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No experience or opinion

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Necessary to have these as offences.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Experience is that the options are currently OK (Archbishop's Licence or Civil Ceremony). However, ability of officiant to conduct legal ceremony would be welcome.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Registration Officer must be available 24/7.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No experience

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As for other couples.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As for other couples

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Current restrictions in time of COVID19 have been limiting.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to meet the need

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clarification is good

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lack of confidence that ceremony conducted in a lawful way

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

The option for a wedding (of any sort) whilst afloat is likely to be welcomed. The numbers who currently marry overseas indicates that this might be a popular option.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The same should apply for those married in the UK too (no fixed time limit)

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Extra costs should not fall to the 'taxpayer'

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Why should there be a lower fee?

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The option should not be removed.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Costs should be recovered

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a small part of the costs for the couple

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to be similar to current arrangements

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All costs should be recovered

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Costs should be recovered

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Full costs should be recovered

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Costs should be recovered

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. No - as CoFE clergy I see many couples who want to marry. It is their understanding of the law that discourages some from marrying.
2. More flexibility in location and officiant will only tend to increase the number of couples being legally married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Not known by me
2. The cost of marrying in CoFE Church is set by Parliament and has not put off couples.
3. As above at 2.
4. Marrying overseas is seen as expensive
5. Couples value the opportunity to marry in church - fixed cost and not 'per head'!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Not known
2. Unsure of what savings there might be. Church weddings tend to be much cheaper than other venues. Similar charges would apply if I were authorised to take weddings in other locations.
3. Currently the case so no savings.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Would love to be allowed to conduct weddings at locations other than church buildings. Hope that the reforms would permit that.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Many choose to marry overseas - as an opportunity to have the ceremony they want (whether sandy beach or 'Elvis Chapel')
2. In the Church setting the issue of a Common Licence enables British Citizens (and European EA) living overseas to marry in England.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think that more weddings would happen in England and Wales under the liberalisation proposed.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

-

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Probably cost-neutral if couples are allowed to choose location and officiants. Strong market for independent officiants (as per funerals).

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6G-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 14:33:20

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Queen's House - Royal Museums of Greenwich

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The guidance is weak, poorly communicated and very restricted. The wedding industry has been completely over looked by the government and the value it brings to the wider economy ignored over the desire to allow us all to go the pub instead!

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I disagree.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The definition of 'fit and proper' will differ between all organisations and will result in irresponsible and unfit persons acting as officiants.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Is there really the resources in local authorities to 'check' whether a new officiant is undergoing continued training and providing an honest and professional service. Local authority budgets will cut to the core after Covid-19 and the current recession. Is it not a waste of tax payers money allocating budget to expand this service for no substantial financial benefit to the economy other than allowing a couple to have a budget or novelty wedding, or more importantly couples being able to marry far easier to obtain a British passport.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not support the idea of independent officiants.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the responsibility should sit with the Registrar General also.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not support the idea of independent officiants.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What budget and resources will they have to do this?

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not support the idea of independent officiants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No



Please expand on your answer:

The wedding and events industry has a saturated market of venues already, if the law is changes allowing weddings to occur in any location, many venues will go out of business. Approved venues also safe guide couples against unprofessional suppliers to ensure they provide the service that was paid for and that they are a financial viable company. Also it safe guards the couple from poor quality caterers and the potential for food poisoning and subsequently legal action being taken by the guests.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In addition, to comments above regarding the booking of sub standard suppliers to deliver the wedding, a ceremony conducted in the air or water etc presents many unnecessary health and safety issues. Outdoor settings in an approved venue however can be better controlled and still benefit from having access to an approved and vetted list of wedding event suppliers.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A couple will just seek to find another officiant who will approve their wedding in whatever venue they choose. The law needs to be fair but consistent with the rules. The current ambiguous COVID-19 guidance of what is and isn't possible for wedding receptions, gatherings etc, only goes to prove how inconsistent and unclear rules do not work.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What will be the definition of 'Safe' and 'Dignified'. These terms are completely open to interpretation and Officiants are not health and safety experts. For example approved venues produce Risk Assessments for every wedding or event. Will an officiant supply this or the couple? They would not as they do not have training in this field.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above. Further, who will check if the Officiant has made a correct decision. What enforcement will be in place if that decision was ill advised and an accident happens at the wedding. Who is then liable?

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that it should be optional, it should be compulsory. A trusted wedding venue should be officially recognized and awarded such status.

Please share your views below:

Approved venue processes are already in place. Consider the thousands of venues in the UK who have worked for years to earn trust and recommendations through hosting weddings and winning awards. It does not make any commercial sense to allow for weddings to happen anywhere with anyone being able to operate them. It will encourage inferior levels of service, scams and very likely accidents and major errors.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

n/a

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There are currently thousands of approved venues to suit different budgets and wedding requirements, increasing these options will lead to a completely saturated market where costs are just driven down and resulting in many venues going out of business.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There are currently thousands of approved venues to suit different budgets and wedding requirements, increasing these options will lead to a completely saturated market where costs are just driven down and resulting in many venues going out of business.

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There are currently thousands of approved venues to suit different budgets and wedding requirements, increasing these options will lead to a completely saturated market where costs are just driven down and resulting in many venues going out of business. The business opportunities will arise for law firms as claims against unapproved venues, suppliers etc who are providing a wedding service with no professional experience will result in accidents, food poisoning, scams etc.

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD63-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 14:37:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Royal Caribbean Group, encompassing ...

Royal Caribbean International

Celebrity Cruises

Azamara Club Cruises

Silversea

TUI Cruises

Hapag Lloyd Cruises

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not required

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

From a "Weddings at Sea" perspective, this is restrictive for our clients and guests.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Giving a notice period online is a good idea, but again it is restrictive to have the couple do an in person interview prior to the ceremony on board a vessel. Suggest this can be done online or by some other digital means. However where there is suspicion of a sham marriage or marriage of convenience, then an in person interview should go ahead.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

3 days at a minimum. This allows time for any issues that arise during the interview to be rectified and also for the couple to join the vessel shortly after and have the ceremony.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree. Interviews and maybe questionnaires should be completed 3 days prior to getting married on board a ship and can be done online where possible.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be allowed.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Notice should be posted online in all marriages.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should be able to act in case of the official officiant is indisposed.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of the reasons behind this suggestion.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be allowed to take place anywhere the couple would like them to take place.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. This is restrictive to "Weddings at Sea"

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This is a good idea where a religious ceremony is wanted.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should both be required.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This gives the flexibility for couples to have legal proceedings prior to a ceremony wherever they please.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the Officiant can be anyone who chooses to be one. As in the case of "Weddings at Sea" where a Senior Officer would be conducting the legalities of the wedding.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For "Weddings at Sea", there is a need for flexibility of whom can Officiate. There must be a mechanism to allow Senior Marine Officers to be able to Officiate.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Member count is too low. This can easily be filled by family or friends.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree. All organisations should have acceptable beliefs and morality (held by more than 20 persons!)

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agree. This will allow senior marine officers to Officiate.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be a filter, and a set standard for Officiants.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an absolute must.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This entire process and proposal should in no way cheapen the marriage process or make it less attractive.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be held to a standard and judged on how they carry out their duties. Having the organisation decide if they are fit and carrying out their duties would be conflict as they may have no reason to ensure the Officiant remains suitable.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without a doubt, Officiants should be monitored and rated,

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time limit where they need to be re-authorised to be Officiants.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be allowed anywhere the couple would like it to be.

Please share your views below:

They should not be limited anywhere.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

GRO and the regular Officiant.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, and on any UK registered vessel sailing internationally.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any vessel registered in United Kingdom.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be required to give the name of the vessel, IMO number and Officiant name and any registration numbers.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There should be provision for religious ceremonies at sea and non-religious ceremonies at sea. There is a big demand from couple to be married whilst on a ship at sea by the Master or Staff Captain, and this is something that the industry is very interested in achieving.

This would also drive UK ship registry as cruise companies will not use UK registry because they do not currently allow official weddings at sea in international waters.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives more flexibility.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cruise lines have shied away from UK Ship Registry because of the inability to carry out "Weddings at Sea". Many couples wish to be married whilst travelling on a cruise ship, and many couples wish to have a ceremony carried out by the Master as officiant. There are very few if any cruise ships on the UK register and this would indeed make the UK register more attractive if official religious or non-religious weddings could be officiated on board a vessel in international waters, or indeed anywhere the vessel may be (when UK registered of course).

There are many reasons to have a cruise vessel under UK flag, however due to not being able to carry out official ceremonies on board under UK flag, most cruise lines flag with countries that do allow these types of ceremonies.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This would make the UK ship register more attractive to the cruise industry. UK Ship Register is deemed one of the best in the world for its high standards, and I believe there is pent up demand for passenger/cruise vessels to be under UK flag.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD64-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 17:20:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Connected to [REDACTED] campaign: Justice for Joan (Joan Blass, dementia patient and victim of forced/predatory marriage)

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are already too few safeguards in the marriage process. Removing any that currently exist would seem incredibly unwise.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - however, the notice of marriage should be published online too rather than simply published at the relevant registry office.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period, to give registrars, other professionals, and friends and family members of those getting married to raise and act on any safeguarding concerns.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There are already too few safeguards for vulnerable adults in the marriage process. Absolutely no current safeguards should be removed.

Joan Blass (see the campaign Justice for Joan) had dementia severe enough that she did not remember her own address or the name of the man she was marrying, scored zero on the mini mental state test two years before the forced marriage, after which her dementia worsened even more, and the marriage still took place despite in-person interviews.

It took place despite one of the two registrars, the more junior, raising concerns about her capacity to consent, because the senior registrar decided "she looked happy" (this was discovered in the later police investigation).

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Depends whether this could be achieved without further weakening safeguarding from forced marriage.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is one of the aims of Justice for Joan campaign. had online search notifications set up for the name of the man who forced into marriage, and for name, because she was so vulnerable and were so frightened about what he might do to her.

However, because notice is currently only published in the registry office - and, importantly, several social care professionals that she could not possibly be allowed to marry as she lacked capacity - did not find out about the forced marriage until after her death, by which time it was too late (as a marriage cannot be annulled after death).

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Everything to do with notice of marriage should be published and available online.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

We have found in our investigations into forced/predatory marriages that clergy are often more vigilant than are registrars, and church procedures more rigorous than civil ones. [REDACTED], Joan Blass, who was forced into marriage, did not receive a separate interview from registrars despite the apparent requirement for these.

Giving clergy more powers and responsibilities regarding safeguarding, therefore, is certainly a good idea.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, that is common sense for safeguarding purposes.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

If Anglican officials have relevant legal powers and responsibilities to address safeguarding concerns, capacity to marriage, forced marriage, etc. then yes.

In principle I believe that all preliminaries should be civil preliminaries, but the civil system has so many failings and, as stated above, the church is often more rigorous, in practice my belief is different.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be attended by more than one officiant for these purposes.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is imperative that there are multiple officers present, for safeguarding purposes. As stated earlier, [REDACTED] forced marriage was allowed to proceed even though two officers were present, and even though one raised serious concerns - what safeguards there are should not be weakened even further.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The above is too prescriptive: as far as I understand, humanists do not "claim to explain humanity's nature and relationship to the universe".

Representatives from any organisation should be allowed to officiate a marriage as long as they are adequately trained and supported in safeguarding issues.

Please share your views below:

Representatives from any organisation should be allowed to officiate a marriage as long as they are adequately trained and supported in safeguarding issues.

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Representatives from any organisation should be allowed to officiate a marriage as long as they are adequately trained and supported in safeguarding issues.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Representatives from any organisation should be allowed to officiate a marriage as long as they are adequately trained and supported in safeguarding issues, and the purpose of the organisation does not conflict with these (for example, if it holds beliefs that predatory/forced marriage is acceptable in any situation, it should be excluded).

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

If I have understood this correctly, absolutely not, as all officiants must receive appropriate safeguarding training.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Both these organisations AND the General Register Office should have statutory responsibility for this.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should certainly have a responsibility to ensure all parties understand the nature of the legal agreement.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Must include improved safeguarding guidance and guidance on record keeping around both parties' mental capacity. In the case of [REDACTED] forced marriage, the police could find very little evidence other than registrars' comments in police interviews, as registrars' record keeping was so poor.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should lie with BOTH these organisations and the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above, safeguards on forced marriages are already too limited. If there had been more witnesses to the forced marriage of [REDACTED], perhaps it could have been prevented.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any publically accessible venue.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safeguards are already too limited. None should be removed.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated - safeguards are already too few. The removal of the requirement for witnesses will allow more forced marriages.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We did not find out about the forced marriage of [REDACTED] until after her death several months later [REDACTED] simply because [REDACTED] did not know she was married and her dementia was such that she could barely speak. The man who forced her into marriage successfully kept it secret until after her death.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED] was forced into marriage because she had terminal cancer, as well as dementia - the man who married her did so because he knew she would die relatively soon (and that she would not be able to remember the marriage).

That man had previously - and subsequently - married other elderly, ill ladies for the purpose of inheriting their estate.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safeguards on forced marriage are already too weak. Allowing remote preliminaries and ceremonies in any circumstances would allow more forced marriages.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

██████████ was forced into marriage precisely because she was seriously ill and her death was imminent. Focus should be on deterring this, as it is ultimately more serious than delays for terminally ill people who really wish to marry.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant should be required.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

This consultation is focusing on facilitating rapid marriages of people with terminal illness who wish to be married: however, forced/predatory marriage of people with terminal illness is a greater concern.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current practice decidedly does not prevent forced and predatory marriage, even though forced marriage is technically illegal. Preventing this is ultimately more important than facilitating marriage for those who do consent but are experiencing difficulties, and certainly more important than business opportunities as a result of increased marriages.

Marriage is a legal contract between two parties, and no marriage should take place if both parties do not have a complete understanding of that legal



contract and full capacity to make it.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6D-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-07 23:13:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Why can you not give assurance - is it because you are incompetent or just devious?

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this a negative or positive???? Stupid question - Try "Do you consider your self married, but not in a legally recognised marriage?"

If its not recognised then why is it a marriage? Its a bit like me saying to you "you owe me £100,000" - do you owe it? Of course not, but on your guidelines - you do - please pay up.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

If there were legal barriers they should be adhered to - its meaningful and personal that you owe me £100,000 - please pay up.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Its been a severe restriction.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be resident in some district in England or Wales - or are you proposing that someone from abroad could visit, get married and hence claim citizenship - even though they have no links to this country. This smacks of a way around immigration.

#### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As "online" can be anywhere in the world - this smacks of trying to bypass immigration and other legalities

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

History of payment of UK Income tax for 3 years

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No - its too easy to fake it.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Sounds reasonable provided there is a recognised witness. (JP, Captain etc)

#### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Risk of Harm is a broad subject - it its defined as recent laws then it will be a Humpty Dumpty case ("When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." "The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things.")

#### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What schedule? What has a schedule got to do with my daughter getting married in the local church among friends?

#### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a job creation scheme and totally unnecessary.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why replace a simple current scheme with a more complex one?

Please share your views below:

Please see Humpty Dumpty response earlier.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why change what works pretty well?

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why change something for no benefit? Or do you have some benefit in mind?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Has it caused any problems? Most people are known locally so word soon gets about. This is about building a community where people support one another. But I suspect this is about central control - please emigrate to China and join CCP

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The current system sounds eminently sensible

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

What happens if one is in the Armed forces? There is no reason a Padre cannot accept a declaration, whilst the other is at a Parish Church.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

There are c.8000 parishes that take weddings - are you proposing employing a load of new civil servants to do what they do quite adequately.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Vicars seem to do the job quite adequately

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this a change?

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this a change?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Is this a change?

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England can pass legally valid measures, no other religious body can. Are you proposing a change to this? This reflects their embedded nature in the laws of this country from Queen downwards. This sounds like allowing anyone to sanction marriage with no constraint.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q23

Please share your views below:

See answer to Q23

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 is a joke surely? Any organisation should pledge allegiance to the Queen and laws of this land and have weekly attendance of 50,000 UK citizens at least.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Are you saying that free speech is dead - this sounds like an attempt to shore up an unpopular policy. See previous answer.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can the organisations not keep track of them? Another job creation scheme

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If they are in an organisation of >50,000 attendees per week then there is no reason to consider this. It simply leads to corruption.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not if 20 is the size of organisation.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not if 20 is the size of organisation.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"Elevating" is a nebulous word. Any charge should be similar to the Church of England charge.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

independent officiants are a joke. Any charge should be similar to the Church of England charge.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

independent officiants are a joke.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its what they do at the moment - why are you proposing it.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England is legally the definer of Marriage and the Marriage service is part of English Law

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What if the organisation is not fit and proper - so that it downgrades women

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What if the organisation is not fit and proper - should it not be removed.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This whole questionnaire is spurious

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Time limit on what

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This whole questionnaire is spurious

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has two components

1- parties agree and have no impediment to a legal UK marriage

2 - the marriage is legally signed and witnessed

Both need to be in place in the ceremony for the avoidance of doubt.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Form and Ceremony will follow from the organisation that carries out the wedding - subject to the answers to Q42

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See Q42

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Its either religious or secular - its a binary choice.

Please share your views below:

None - have a religious wedding if you want that.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Its nothing to do with the state. The civil bit is done for those organisations not permitted to hold weddings.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Its a public declaration - you miss the point that its a communal event to be celebrated by the community, not a private legal job to be hidden away.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You are proposing a lot of contradictory questions without any linking - a load of b\*\*\*\*\*ks.

You propose composite questions - so obviously have an agenda.

So this should be the first question - with connection to the question on who should do it, and whether it should be public.

as I said its cr\*p.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,

Please share your views below:

what is "in the air, and/or" ?????

Wherever a wedding is held it should be (a) public and proclaimed as valid, (b) witnessed by an authorised person (c) documented

If these cannot be guaranteed then it is not a wedding venue.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers - I'm bored by your stupidity

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cr\*p questions with load of double negatives.

Religious venues should not be impinged upon for non religious weddings- theres plenty of places for them to go.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My set of officiants, a subset of yours, is fine YES. Your superset of mine is rubbish - NO

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My set of officiants, a subset of yours, is fine YES. Your superset of mine is rubbish - NO

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England is entitled to define its own realm.

Consultation Question 53:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Jobs for the boys.

Please share your views below:

Make it as complex as possible to give jobs to the boys

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage certificate has all that on it, and makes tracing family history easier. Why remove it?

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The official language of the UK is english - all marriage documents should be at least in that language - others are optional

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yet another stupid question - it could be done now with paper copies as per death certificate. But how would you uniquely identify people.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be "either party" not "both"

No

Please expand on your answer:

The first could be correctable subject to safeguards but 2 & 3 are critical to the legal process.

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be "either party" not "both" in all cases

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is meaningless if cohabitation has not followed it. Sounds like an immigration fiddle.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I didn't think "presumption that a couple is married" constituted legal marriage. Is this a strawman?

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You've proposed "both" not " either" in earlier questions. The answer to this depends on previous decisions. Which idiot drew these questions up?

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But its the couples responsibility - individually - to confirm the officiants status

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Church of England? Why bother with previous questions when you now seek to override them?

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Makes Assumptions previously denied

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Makes Assumptions previously denied

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Makes Assumptions previously denied

No

Please expand on your answer:

Makes Assumptions previously denied

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whats wrong with the evidence based approach - sounds like a lawyers playground loophole

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to previously specified constraints- public, witness etc

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"port of choice" - Duh! Either departure or arrival.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

British registered ships with British citizen Captain above a significant tonnage to marry 2 British Citizens

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

British registered ships with British citizen Captain above a significant tonnage to marry 2 British Citizens

No

Please expand on your answer:

British registered ships with British citizen Captain above a significant tonnage to marry 2 British Citizens

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

maritime officiant = British registered ships with British citizen Captain above a significant tonnage to marry 2 British Citizens

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Standard fee

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have never heard of such a complaint and see no reason for this "consultation"

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs 1-5 are trivial in the overall cost of a wedding and its trappings. I know the Church of England will forgo its fee in cases of poverty.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs are trivial in the overall cost of a wedding and its trappings. The changes you propose are rather petty.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Its normal for a Church or Registry office wedding to move to another venue and this allows much more flexibility without a load of legalese.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Its normal for a Church or Registry office wedding to move to another venue and this allows much more flexibility and competition without a load of legalese.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[Read previous answers](#)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6H-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-08 06:14:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should NOT be possible to get married remotely except in rare situations where a member of the military is deployed and unable to get home, in which case he or she can marry using a proxy.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why bother?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I don't have a problem with this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with regard to religious ceremonies but I don't agree with regard to non-religious ceremonies.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I strongly disagree. Religious organizations should be able to define what marriage means according to what it has always taught.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:



No. The current system works well.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think this will result in anything different to the current situation

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think religious organizations already do this.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple decide that a church ceremony is desirable in addition to civil ceremony, they should not be hindered. In Germany, for example, it is common for people to have a civil ceremony and then a church ceremony.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration and should be open to be witnessed by all

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

None of these

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDTV-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-08 13:41:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I think that even seven days is too quick a time. A month would allow a more considered proposal.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I believe that all interviews should be in person, with both parties present, and with a suitably qualified person. Hopefully this would avoid sham or forced ceremonies.



Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I believe that both parties should be present at the venue or place at which they propose to live.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I believe that the officiant should be the person who can legitimise the legality of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are many churches. Where the proposed church is unavailable, the vicar should be able to liaise with other vicars concerning the venue church.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I believe the banns should be published as widely as possible.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Very much the former. Anything else could lessen the sanctity of an Anglican wedding.

When a Christian couple get married in church, the importance of the ceremony taken before God, and the promises made to God, are the only essentials necessary.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDT9-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-08 14:59:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are in a committed relationship but have not had any form of ceremony to celebrate as due to our beliefs it would not be legally recognised.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

When I was seriously ill my partner was not recognised as my NOK

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Would want a hand fasting ceremony outside performed by a Pagan priest / priestess.

Currently hand fasting is not recognised as legally binding even though it is an older ceremony than its Christian counterpart.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Nil

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I believe this would be helpful with 'destination' weddings where it is planned for the ceremony to take place a number of miles from the bride and grooms home

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would this be needed ??

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that people should be able to get married in a place of their choice regardless on where the intention to marry was announced

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I have no view on Christian weddings

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that if Pagan and alternative religious services should be preceded by civil preliminaries then so should the various Christian ceremonies.

However I would rather that other religious services be recognised as legally binding in there own right.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as other religious officiants are recognised in the same way.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Paganism has a belief system which is very well recognised however doesn't seek conformity.

Spiritual faith systems should be recognised even though they do not truly conform to the Christian idea of what a religion is

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is no limit on costs etc this leaves the ceremony open to financial abuse.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why someone who is a religious officiant can not perform a non religious ceremony. However this would not work the other way around

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As per the belief system of that religion or spirituality

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

While there should be a framework I feel that, particularly in spiritual belief systems this would take away the individuals ability to have a ceremony personal and meaningful for them.

Which is why we have not got married to date

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no requirement for this if people can Taylor there service to suit them

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think you should be able to do it in any place that means something to the people taking part

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation does not automatically indicate a wish to be recognised as married

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

If in Prison I do not believe they should be able to marry while detained.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Notice should be minimal - advancing disease is unpredictable.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe people detained in prison should be able to marry

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDN-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-08 20:43:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have had a number of friends who have had to cancel their weddings. Three of these couples have then gone on to have a small wedding and hope to celebrate it more fully in the future

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems an unnecessary hurdle

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Online notices are more convenient and reach a wider group of people

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seems appropriate but no strong opinions

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Again no strong views but in person seems preferable to ensure that there isn't coercion

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure what these would be - but seems acceptable

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Online posting

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Both seem sensible

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Sounds sensible

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This would be inappropriate

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst in theory I support this idea I have had experience of this before and the training has been very poor and costly. The training would also need to be monitored.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

There may be a whole range of circumstances that make any of these appropriate

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There might need to be a 'governing body' or quality assurance organisation that evaluates training and venues and perhaps mediates when there are wedding complaints about specific celebrants

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think both parties should be physically present for it to be legitimate

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Beyond my knowledge or experience

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDTN-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-08 20:48:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am not part of an organisation, with a specific marriage related agenda

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this forced link between marriage and location is unnecessary, and serves no purpose other than providing an income to local hoteliers etc.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is absolutely in keeping with our modern society

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

the first 2 options don't allow sufficient time for cooling off, I would prefer a duration of 2 weeks at least

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I believe these interviews should NOT be remote, otherwise the procedure could be open to abuse or unseen intimidation. It is all too easy to hide the truth on a camera etc.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This is not the time to create a divided new marriage system, the rules should be the same for everyone

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

absolutely required, an additional. Safeguard to protect against coercion

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

if the participants agree, why not at all other ceremonies ?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

again this would create division in a system, why not treat everyone the same, all marriage ceremonies to have a registration officer appointed by the state, and trained for that role

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

again this would create division in a system, why not treat everyone the same, all marriage ceremonies to have a registration officer appointed by the state, and trained for that role

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

again this would create division in a system, why not treat everyone the same, all marriage ceremonies to have a registration officer appointed by the state, and trained for that role

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

again this would create division in a system, why not treat everyone the same, all marriage ceremonies to have a registration officer appointed by the state, and trained for that role

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

again this would create division in a system, why not treat everyone the same, all marriage ceremonies to have a registration officer appointed by the state, and trained for that role

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

again this would create division in a system, why not treat everyone the same, all marriage ceremonies to have a registration officer appointed by the state, and trained for that role

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With suitable training and sworn in under oath

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but then trained and sworn in , working for the state..at the ceremony

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

and hold office for the purpose of the ceremony

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

this should be a function of the state, paid for by marriage fees

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

absolutely

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

otherwise how do you deal with lapses in conduct

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the distinction between spiritual and religious content could easily be lost if you made religious content unlawful in a civil ceremony

Please share your views below:

as above, I wouldn't want spiritual content banned because it was deemed religious

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

out of date provision

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

providing there is a registered state notary in attendance

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am currently curtailed from getting married where I want,

I don't want a registration office ceremony

I have a suitable building where we could get married, which incidentally is still registered for marriages, but I can't get married there as it is an old Chapel...bizarre !

Please share your views below:

The only limit should be the health and safety provision for participants , officials, and audience

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

especially if they are trained in health and safety aspects

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

safe..yes...but dignified is open to interpretation. A better word would be appropriate

No

Please expand on your answer:

yes to safe, but dignified is not the best choice of words

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes...if it speeds up the process, and gives an incentive to use 'appropriate ' locations

Please share your views below:

state. Paid by owner of property

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English only, else opens the floodgates for other languages,

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

uncomfortable with this, it could make a case for divorce by email as well

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

absence of witnesses why.?

Surely we have rules for a reason.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

marriage is a bringing together of a couple, if one of the participants want to later contest and prove that they never came together , within the first year. Then this should assist in proving the marriage void, without having to divorce

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One year is enough

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not sure how this would affect divorce proceedings

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am prevented from getting married in a Chapel I bought and repaired, even though it is still on the register, just in case it offends someone !

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDT3-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-09 17:04:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

NA

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

very small and lacking in being a celebration, more functional and efficient.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement for residency dates from a time when people were known in their locality and we could argue that this is no longer the case, however people need to be linked to a place. If couples can marry anywhere it will be more difficult to check legalities.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Getting appointments is difficult this will speed up the process

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I feel that in person interviews are still the best option. It is more difficult to ask the questions and determine answers and follow up on a virtual environment.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

YES

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

12 months is a long time, 6 months would seem more appropriate

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Depending on when the ceremony is taking place it might be difficult to name an officiant at that much notice.

### Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In churches and parishes there may not be a substitute readily available

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The banns system seems to me an outdated system, it was introduced on the premis that the couple would be known locally and lots of the local community would be in church to hear them read. Neither apply now and so the banns reading is really a 'ceremonial' or traditional aspect of preparing for the wedding. Couples often marry in a church where no one knows them due to a qualifying connection and so calling banns is a nonsense.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes both couple should be involved with perhaps some provision for exceptional circumstances such as illness.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A civil ceremony and registrar would cover those requirements. In both religious and non religious organisations the organisation has to be large enough and with sufficient trained and authorized officiants to be able to be accountable and hold its officers accountable.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation needs to be larger, a national or regional grouping that can be held accountable and has sufficient resources to train officiants. It should also have in place a constitution, a statement of aims, safeguarding policy,

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

It should be nominated by named person not by office. Named person would enable those regarded as unsuitable (perhaps with a conviction, holding other posts or employment that would effect this role) to be excluded whereas nomination by office would not allow this.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Central record that can be kept up to date and checked

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although I think there should be a national standard as to what that means

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some guidance on fees and an upper limit set

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be joint, initially with the organisation but there also needs to be a check system that allows national agency/ legal agencies the possibility of removing someone.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be authorized for a period of time, say 5 years and request renewal.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that the public declaration of no impediment at the wedding is still relevant and necessary.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The form and ceremony may be set by the religious or non religious organisation responsible and is therefore not at the discretion of the couple or the officiant to change. I also feel that having certain set words for the declaration, exchange of vows etc keeps structure of the service and of the key elements in place. Flexibility can then be allowed around that key structure

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current system where the two are distinct alternatives works well, there should be a clear distinction between a civil and religious service. I acknowledge that there are some pieces of music and possible songs which there is ambiguity and those rules can be relaxed. However readings from religious texts and hymns should be retained as part of religious ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Classical music written for church but now seen as more general use,  
Readings from novels or poetry that has religious origins or connotations

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For some this is still important, they may have very good reasons to have a civil ceremony but then want a religious service after.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public event,

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the possibilities should be widened but the venue would still need to be licensed and appropriate. There should not be provision for 'one off' venues in private gardens or in sports stadium.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Some outdoor venues may be appropriate but in some cases this should be restricted

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues are exactly that, religious venues and as such have a particular role and place, they offer the worship space as a place to worship and should not be offered as a place for non religious ceremonies. There are plenty of venues around for this. I cannot understand why someone who has an issue with a religion ceremony would choose to marry in a place of belief and with symbols of belief around them. If civic ceremonies were allowed in

religious venues many churches and clergy would be put under immense pressure to allow the building to be used and be accused of being discriminatory if not allowing, we would be opening up a situation for accusations and court cases.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants may have a conflict of interest

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the officiant and of the local authority

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Licensing premises would mean that the local authority, with their local knowledge and understanding had already looked at this and made a judgement.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local Authority registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are critical, this is a public declaration and a legal document and requires witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be more short term

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe that conducting a service remotely would ever be a good idea. The ceremony is about relationship and celebration and i think people would prefer to wait. It will also be difficult to ensure all is legal when done remotely

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure, it does need some sort of check system so as to ensure all legalities are completed

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant should always be available

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I do not think there is current demand

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Discretionary fees may apply

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't feel the current law does prevent people getting married, i think there is lots of choice available and various buildings that can be used. The current preliminaries are not onerous but are sufficient to prevent illegal or forced marriages. I would worry that a relaxation in preliminaries and checks would allow some to pressure others into weddings . Marriage is serious, it is a legally binding contract and should have some element of control over suitable venues and suitable officiants.

I feel the main barrier to people getting married is the perception that a wedding needs to be large and expensive and that many of the venues charge high amounts. However there are venues , including many religious venues, who can provide a more affordable option.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Register weddings- cost can be an issue for some but generally the basic ceremony is acceptable  
Some approved premises are very expensive, but also often have large overheads, more venues with a lower cost would be good  
Registered places of weddings have fees that are quite controlled in most cases and many have an option for discretionary fees

Given the costs many spend on a wedding the registrant fee is quite small

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The availability of registrars has caused some issues, where a wedding was booked and then registrar was not available. This tends not to be a problem if booked far enough in advance but much more so if short notice

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I'm not sure it is appropriate for a religious officiant to be used by a commercial venue to perform ceremonies

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

INA

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDTF-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-09 21:04:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not yet married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

As a pagan I would like our traditional handfasting ceremony as this, to me, is a big part of the wedding ceremony in my faith.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is much more convenient with many people living busier lifestyles to "get the ball rolling" with an online application, as technology becomes an integrated part of modern life it would also be sensible to move with the times.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think 20 if a large number when considering my particular community as pagans often meet for worship in smaller groups, although we still have a sincere belief about marriage and a ceremony which reflects that fact.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As wedding in different religious and non religious traditions can vary in content and action yet hold the same meaning for couples of that community, I don't think there should be restrictions of any sort of how a wedding should take place as there is so much diversity among groups.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I dont think there should be any limits on where a wedding can be legally performed as long as it is performed by a licensed officiant. As a pagan I spend a lot of time in nature and traditionally a handfasting ceremony would take place outdoors and so I don't think location should be an issue as long as it is performed by a licensed person.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues of any kind are considered sacred to their communities and therefore I think it should be left to their discretion who marries there, whereas non religious venues should be open to all as they are not considered to be sacred places.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it should be up to the couple where they want to marry and if an officiant is not happy to perform the ceremony there they should have the option to find another officiant who will.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Whoever currently approves locations for marriage licenses should remain responsible for this process and venues should continue to receive a license for weddings to be performed there pre approved, while couples will still have the option to request other locations.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDTK-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-10 11:05:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

event in a tent

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::  
event in a tent

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDTC-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-10 11:23:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

N/A

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm Pagan, presently in England and Wales, our marriage tradition isn't recognized by law. Hand fasting is a legally recognized ceremony in Scotland, but not England and Wales.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I've always been aware hand fasting is not recognized by law, this is why I'm not legally married.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I simply do not recognize national law when it comes to defining my personal relationships. If the government can't be bothered to respect me and mine, I don't respect them or their laws.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, made it a lot easier to end a decade long relationship. But I suspect it was only easy for me because it was a amicable split and I didn't need any form of legal protection. Not so sure that is the case in the situations experienced by many others.

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Hand fasting, the tradition of my faith is not recognized in England and Wales. As you might imagine being Pagan means I wont marry in a monotheistic church or temple. Which leaves only the bureaucracy of a registrar's. Marriage events are suppose to be joyous celebrations of life, not a business meeting where contracts are signed and dated. As a result Registrar events seem very cold, underwhelming and quite frankly, sad, to me, not the way I want to start a marriage with anyone.

As a result if I want to get married I have to have two events, a boring business meeting that to me seems little more than jumping through unnecessary hoops to satisfy some strangers I have never met and who have no business sticking their noses into my personal affairs, and then I have to have an actual ceremony with those who I love and who do matter to me. But apparently it's the boring business meeting that's important. (No it isn't, and if you think it is you've missed a very important lesson in life, nothing is more important than family.)

Quite frankly the entire governmental bureaucratic process is nothing but an insult to Pagan's and an attack on our private personal relationships.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience if marriages during this event, funerals where weird though. People seemed to have to be very disciplined with their emotions, until they simply couldn't be because of circumstance. At which point any idea of social distancing and transmission prevention was just forgotten as individuals tried to comfort each other and seek some kind of solace and closure. Very difficult and very sad.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

it's not up to any superintendent to agree to marry someone based on the amount of time they've lived anywhere. i can see the point in someone checking if both parties are of legal age and both willing want to enter into the marriage, but checking based on location? What's that got to do with anything. Seems a bit feudal to me.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the 21st century after all. The global communications network was established for a reason, use it.

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

As short a time as possible, running checks is not an excuse to delay people from getting on with their lives.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, remote interviews are to insecure and you can never be sure who's promoting what answers in the background. Although there should be a online method for all lines of communication, actual interviews should take place face to face on a individual and private basis.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as information is carefully managed to prevent people from discerning specific addresses and locations

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, the substitute should only be able to act if the original choice is incapacitated. No point in two people doing the same job.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No idea what any of this means as I'm not Christian.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No idea what any of this means as I'm not Christian.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No idea what any of this means as I'm not Christian.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No idea what any of this means as I'm not Christian. Personally I'd never let a Priest anywhere near my paperwork, but I can see the point in some sort of official checking for things like forced marriages.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, in the Pagan faith both parties have to make separate statements that they want to be married and know of no reason why they can't be. (which they usually do loudly and repeatedly over the weeks leading up to the ceremony.)

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Both, if someone of a faith wants a member of their own faith to officiate their wedding then that's what they should get. This should be extended to all faiths, not just the Church of England. However i do think the preliminaries of any faiths ceremony should reach the legal standard required by English and Welsh law.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see the reason in points one and three, but what exactly do you mean by "the other requirements of the ceremony." Ceremonies and rituals as adaptive living things that evolve and change with the form of life that undertakes them. Any Officiant must be willing to accept that the specific ceremony they attend may not be the same as the generic ceremony they've been told about.

For instance, it's a common belief that Pagan hand fastings require those witnessing the event to kneel before the Mother figure who over see's the ceremony simply as a mark of respect. This is true, it's very common.

However, among Pagan's it is also a belief that certain people do not kneel before anyone. or anything. if such a person chooses not to kneel at a handfasting, that is not any of the Officiants business, similarly if such a person does choose to kneel, it is not any of the Officiants business. None of this, including the presence of a motherly figure to oversee everything is simply not important, the only thing that matters is the hand fasting and words spoken between the two parties getting married. And while the handfasting often follows a similar pattern, the actual words spoken vary considerably, so again, it's not the words that are important, but rather their meaning and sincerity. This is the only thing the officiant should be concerned about, is it a sincere wedding between two agreeing parties.

### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There's no reason why two people of faith can't have a faith centered wedding that is still precised over by a registration officer if that's what the parties getting married want. There are plenty of Christians who have a strong faith in God but no faith in the Church. Such people should still be able to have a religious wedding with prayers and what ever they wish even if they don't have a Priest in attendance.

Same goes for Pagan's, we don't really have a organised faith, there's no reason for us to actually have an official representative of our faith to over see things, after all, we are all official representatives of our faith. No one person actually has any more legitimacy than anyone else. We just tend to elect a individual to take a leading role out of tradition and ease of conducting the ceremony. there is no reason that individual can't be a sympathetic civil registrar who understands the spirit of the occasion.

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, not Christian, I have no idea if these individuals are experienced to take on this responsibility or not.

### Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm Pagan, we don't have a "governing authority." How is this proposal suppose to extend to organisations that simply do not do hierarchical power structures?

All that I can suggest is that any nominated officiant put forward by any organisation, even if they are self nominated. should be checked by civil registrar's to make sure they have a clear understanding of the legal responsibilities.

### Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes on the first sentence. But I have problems with the words "in conformity". Many secular belief systems believe that the Universe is a random and very very diverse place, conformity is the last thing it is seeking. As such such systems can not teach that there is any way to actually conform. This makes

there beliefs no less relevant than anyone elses.

Please share your views below:

Political and Profit Chasing organisations There should never be such a thing as a marriage of political convenience or "this marriage is proudly sponsored by Cokacola" that is legally recognized. Marriages should be about love and emotions, not about politics and business.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why there has to be a specific amount of people who have to meet on a regular basis. What exactly do this prove? That there's more than one or two people of a like mind? If so, what does that have to do with any two peoples desire to get married? That a certain number of people have to agree before others can form a long lasting personal relationship? You'll find the number of people who have eloped during our history proves that this is simply not the case.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It depends how unlawful these views are. Many traditional organisations hold views that do no meet the standards of modern law of morality. Only organisations that have already been proscribed by law as being unlawful (ie, banned for being a load of gun toting, violence espousing terrorists or proven to promote practices such as honor killings) should be excluded.

For a organisation to have the ability to nominate taken away, they should already have been prosecuted in a court of law and found to be acting in a unlawful manner, not just promoting it, but actively engaging in it.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes. it is my understanding that some office positions in some religions only exist to oversee marriages, that is the very point of that office. So anyone taking up that position should automatically be nominated. They still need checking to make sure they understand their legal responsibilities in addition to any responsibilities they have to their organisation though.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and any organisation which repeatedly nominates individuals who are simply not fit for the position should be fined for wasting everyone's time.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, marriage should never be any form of business transaction.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, there needs to be some kind of limit of fee's. Otherwise you'll have people being married by the Celebrity of the week and the Celebrity them selves wont really care about who they're marrying or if the proper checks have been implemented. They'll just do it for the money.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I know of more than a few humanist or atheist individuals who are quite happy to work along side and even respectfully conduct religious ceremonies. Just because a individual doesn't share in a particular faith does not mean they do not have respect for that faith or it's practitioners. I see no reason why such a person can't be nominated by multiple organisations.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Dignity definitely, but solemnity? What exactly does that mean? How is one expected to present they are serious about their responsibilities? Does this mean they should always been holding a dire expression and continually reminding everyone of what a major step is being taken? Or should they be smiling and joyous and telling everyone that "yep, they've checked, and this most definitely is a legit marriage that is most bodacious."

Perhaps the best way to judge if someone is taking it all seriously or not is just to check that everyone is meeting their legal requirements, something that should be done with officiants before they even take up their position.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only the most basic of guidance to make sure all concerned meet their legal responsibilities. After that it's not really anyone's concern how a wedding is being conducted accept for those being married.

it is not any officials place to tell two scuba divers who want to get married at the bottom of the sea because that's their shared passion, that they can't, because that's not how you conduct a marriage.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, to much room for in house corruption, such checks should be conducted by the Registrar's Office.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What do you do when someone has developed their profession to the highest level possible? How are you going to tell someone who already has a high level of education in law or sociology and a position within a social or religious organisation that they can no longer preside over weddings because they've got nothing major left to learn and no clear path of development to proceed along?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Organisations should only be required to submit how people getting married declare their consent and how they've made sure that this declaration is free from influence of parties not getting married. Any other details about the ceremony are simply none of the General Register Office business.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but on the understanding that the ceremony itself might change at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstance. The only aspects of it that should be set in stone and immutable are the agreed upon methods of the involved parties expressing their free consent.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the civil and legal responsibilities are met it's not really anyone's concern if the ceremony presents itself as civil or religious. Those of faith, who do not trust the earthly hierarchy of their faith, should still be able to have a religious ceremony, even if it is presided over by a Civil Registrar rather than an official representative of their faith.

Please share your views below:

Any that those getting married wish, so long as they aren't unlawful under British law. Hnadfasting during a civil ceremony should definitely be allowed for anyone who wishes this form of symbolism to be included in their Wedding ceremony, be they Pagan, or not.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should only be repealed if it is allowed for those getting married to perform their chosen religious acts during the civil ceremony. If not then those of faith should always have to option to hold a religious ceremony just before or just after the civil one if their religious ceremony is not recognized by law.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, absolutely not, weddings should never take place behind closed doors. Such a ceremony is for two people to declare their intention to act in the most intimate form of partnership to the world. Such a declaration can not be made behind closed doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Nope, people should be free to hold the ceremony where ever they wish, except in circumstance where that ceremony would stop others not involved from accessing that local for any long period of time. (Ie no one should be able to ring fence off the top of Mt Snowdon so they can have a private ceremony up there, if they wish to get married at such heights, they're just going to have to put up with the fact other Hikers and sight seer's are probably going to crash their ceremony. )

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

All artificial barriers that stop consenting adults from getting married at a time and place of their choosing should be removed. This belief that you can't hold a civil right in a religious area or a religious rite in a civil area is pure stagnancy and closed mindedness.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it is the officiants responsibility to make sure all legal requirements are being met, this includes making sure that a chosen location is actually safe and doesn't pose a serious risk of injury to those attending. If a ceremony is taking place at a unusual and possibly risky location, then it is the officiants job to make sure all those attending are aware of these factors and do have the necessary experience or training to deal with them.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safe, to a certain extent yes, but again if two scuba divers want to marry at the bottom of the sea it should be the attendant jobs to make sure all those attending are aware of this and are trained scuba divers. Such a situation can never be deemed entirely safe, but so long as the risks are properly managed, then that should be enough.

As for dignified, well I can't see getting married in a strip club is ever going to be dignified. But if two people want to do that, it's not my or anyone else's place to stop them. if two farmers want to get married in a animal shed surrounded by farting pigs and toileting cows, that's their choice and they should be free to do so.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above, dignity doesn't mean anything, but guidance should be produced on how to mitigate or completely nullify any risk that come with a specific location. After all your average official isn't going to know how to make a marriage between two scuba divers at the bottom of the sea safe and is probably going to need some support and guidance in that capacity.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on the location, generally I'd say no, but there are some locations (particularly those linked to specific faiths) that should probably only be available to members of that faith.

Please share your views below:

Depends entirely on the location and who over see's that location. All such approval processes must comply with English and Welsh law.

## Chapter 8: Registration



Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The "Parents" bit needs to be relaxed a little, not all of us are lucky enough to have surviving parents. It's cruel to throw this in peoples faces on what should be one of the happier days of their lives. (From personal experience of having lost my mother at a young age, I know how painful this can be.)

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If people want their marriages recognized under English and Welsh law, they need to register their deceleration in either English, Welsh or both. Obviously support should be provided to those who don't understand either written English or Welsh, but for the final declaration to be legal, it needs to be made in one of the legally recognized native languages of this country.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Points 1, 2 and 3 I agree on.

Point 4. No. Just because a religion throws it's rattle out of the pram over a same sex marriage is not reasons to declare that marriage void. Someone within the very faith them selves obviously thought it didn't matter if they agree'd to marry the parties and that it's self is proof that a religions proscribing of same sex marriages may not be as hard and fast as some of those in positions of influence in said religion would like to claim.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See Q57

"Just because a religion throws it's rattle out of the pram over a same sex marriage is not reasons to declare that marriage void. Someone within the very faith them selves obviously thought it didn't matter if they agree'd to marry the parties and that it's self is proof that a religions proscribing of same sex marriages may not be as hard and fast as some of those in positions of influence in said religion would like to claim. "

The legality of someone's marriage should not rely on the metaphysical arguments over whether something is a sin or not. The only code of behavior which should impact on the lawfulness of anything are the civil and criminal laws of a given area.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I simply don't know, not enough experience in the law. But i do think such individuals should be free to marry if they wish and should receive support in helping those wishes come become reality.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on circumstance, yes they should still have to give notice, but officials should be prepared to expedite anything required as quickly as possible and these cases should have absolute priority.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any vessel that is registered in the United Kingdom.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Personally the name of the officiant seems more important to me.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I would say there is, it may not be a huge demand, but I'd be surprised if someone doesn't want to get officially married under English and Welsh law on the international dateline or Greenwich Meridian while they are outside of this countries actual borders. We, as a country, pretty much invented the latitude and longitude system, plus we have a very strong sea faring tradition. It seems a shame not to let Brits who want to get married to take full advantage of that if they wish.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, if people are required to go through all the bureaucracy for the sake of the Government, then the Government has to pay for it. It's not ethical to demand "you have to do this and you have to pay to do it" just so someone can access their natural human right to get married.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No, again, stop charging other people for services you are forcing on them. if an employer requires you to travel to do your job, then expenses for that travel falls on your employer, and if your employer is the Government, then the expenses fall on the Government.

Stop trying to rip money out of people who have already paid for this service via their taxes. You're double dipping.

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Let's get this right, we already pay for these services via our taxes and now you want us to pay again to actually use them?

No, stop double dipping, this is exactly why very few people trust or have any real faith in the government. All it's various departments seem to do is find

excuses to rip money out of peoples pockets. That's not what the populace of this country actually pays you to do. Stop it.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It was already the local authorities responsibility to make sure such a location is safe and appropriate for public use, why are you asking for additional money to make sure a job that should have already been completed actually has been?

There's been a lot of text about the law and morality in this questionnaire, but now, at least when it comes to money, it turns out this service isn't at all ethical and loves it's double dipping. How do you expect anyone to respect your authority in such matters if at the same time they have this niggling suspicion you might be a load of double dipping stealth taxing thieves who charge people simply so they can get married? Such rank hypocrisy completely destroy's any moral authority you had in such matters.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only private establishments should be able to set fee's. if the location is linked to any governmental authority or any Religious one, then these costs should already have been factored in to the daily running costs of the location, they should not have been tacked on as a secondary thought. Such behavior is only raises the suspicion that the location wasn't being properly managed in the first place.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

So what you're saying is Registration Officer's should be paid twice for their time. Where did this delusional idea come from? It's extortion. Presumably Registrar's already get paid to do their jobs, if they feel their pay isn't enough or that their expenses aren't being covered properly, that's something they should take up with their employer, the Government.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is what tax money is for, stop double dipping with stealth taxes.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is what tax money is for, stop double dipping with stealth taxes.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

This is what tax money is for, stop double dipping with stealth taxes.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One I actually agree with, yes if private individuals want to take on this position, then yes, they have to pay for the training them selves.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

As it stands at the moment, unless you fit into one or two very defined boxes the law does make it harder for people to become officially married. It's exactly the reason why I myself have never been officially married. From what I can see of these proposals they should make that easier without opening the system up to forced or sham marriages. And an increase in freedom in people's personal lives can only ever be a good thing.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As far as I'm concerned the whole marriage business is designed to rip money out of people drunk on love. Personally I find the whole thing absolutely disgusting. The questionnaire brought up the question of dignity earlier. There is no dignity in such a cut throat business where service vendors primary concern seems to be how much money they can make. The moment anyone starts chasing money, they've lost their dignity.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Given the amount of questions asked about fee's I don't hold out any hope that these proposals will help anyone save any money. Where are the questions about capping and restricting people's ability to charge through the nose for the services they provide?

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It's all disgusting, it lowers the question of whether two people get married down to "can you afford it or not?" And if the cost of something is the primary concern being forced on people, then the people forcing those concerns have completely missed the point of human relationships and should not be in the marriage business. Such people don't have any right to tell anyone how they choose to conduct their lives.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It should benefit all of it, including unfortunately allowing mercenary business people to take advantage of those drunk on love. Where are the questions concerning limiting business concerns regarding such opportunities. The important steps people take in their lives are not opportunities to be exploited for profit.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't really know enough about this, except given the questions about fee's early, it would seem the current law does not receive the necessary financial support required from the Government to actually implement it fairly, which seems to me to be quite a serious failure on behalf of the Government.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It does seem to cut away half the red tape, which can only be a good thing I guess.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It does seem to make it more difficult then it really needs to be.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

it does seem to help ease some of the difficulties.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know enough about this to comment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know enough about this to comment.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

We all pay our taxes, and we pay them to cover costs like this. (Ie those generated by the state as it manages the systems we need to conduct our day to day lives) Most additional costs should be passed on to the Government to factor into the ongoing budgeting for this country. They should not be passed onto private individuals or organisations except in cases where said person or organisation is looking to enter into the marriage business in order to generate a profit for them selves.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXY-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-10 13:07:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Office

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a registrar, government guidelines have been too vague and created much confusion with the public and licensed venues, which means that we have had to deal with numerous queries that could have been avoided, particularly regarding face coverings.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too great a risk of fraud.

#### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fundamentally disagree with this. It's just creating a two-stage process. We might as well carry on with face to face appointments where we can check the documents properly.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Remain at 28 days in order that any problems with immigration can be reported to the Home Office. It also better protects vulnerable people from bogus or forced marriages.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Why? This can be avoided if you remain with face to face interviews. This just makes the process more bureaucratic.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No issues with this as long as GRO can come up with a robust and fraud proof system.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but only via the relevant Council website or GRO website and with assurance that the records cannot be hacked.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a schedule is issued and a member of staff goes sick, is that schedule easily amended or does it become invalid? The couple could be provided with a list of eligible celebrants for the area and advised they could be served by any of them.



Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be abolished completely, with universal civil preliminaries to marriage in order that documents can be checked properly and that people are not trying to circumvent immigration rules. Banns are an even more outdated concept than the current Marriage Act.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Abolish Banns altogether and allow Register Offices to undertake all Notices of Marriage for all weddings in England and Wales.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

See before. Remove CofE powers in terms of wedding preliminaries.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

See previous comments. Register Offices offer a consistent legal process for preliminaries and have an overarching authority in GRO for advice and guidance.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The reason for two officers is to provide back up for each other in the event of any future disputes from the public or complaints about whether the participants were there under duress or were not competent to understand the legal significance of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the CofE retains it's privileged legal status. Otherwise we should go to universal civil preliminaries, like in France and then people can have whatever type of blessing in a church they like.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, it does not guarantee competence in terms of the legal conduct of a ceremony.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow anyone who even claimed to have some sort of belief system to conduct what would be a civil ceremony. The Registration Office have built up the expertise and knowledge of the law to conduct these weddings. This is more about commerce than anything else from these groups.

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It just opens the floodgates to anything.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed. We should also look at the global behaviour of these groups, before allowing them to officiate at ceremonies in England and Wales.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No view on this apart from making sure that legal responsibilities are respected.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a register at GRO with everyone being Criminal Record checked etc.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Also have a clean CRB check too.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should also be registered at GRO.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a legal declaration in the ceremony that the couple are free to marry in front of witnesses. In the event of an objection being made then there is no doubt over intention over any of the parties.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as fixed legal declarations are made in a consistent form of words. Or, adopt universal civil preliminaries.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, it places the person officiating in a position of leading the couple in religious practice when they may not believe in it themselves.

Please share your views below:

No, keep the civil and religious weddings separate.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, people should have one or the other.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are issues of safety when it comes to people attending at a person's home or garden.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Safety issues in terms of the bottom three. What if a Registrar attends a ceremony on a boat, which then doesn't take them back to shore after a ceremony?

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. What are non religious belief venues?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Local authority or GRO.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local Authority registration service should check the proposed venues by way of a risk assessment process.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Use local Register Offices to process the schedules into the RON system.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why propose such a weak process, especially the lack of witnesses? A future legal minefield there!

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How does this protect society from bogus marriages?

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is adopting the old fashioned myth about 'common law' spouses. This will impact on inheritance laws and create many legal problems.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The process for an RG's licence is robust enough at present.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a process in place to avoid vulnerable people being rushed into marriages they may not be ready for.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's the problem of registrar attendance and their safety in all this. Ludicrous idea.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Again, no protect against bogus ceremonies or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should not be allowed in the first place.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Given the problems with maritime travel during Covid, this really should be dropped anyway, but how do we guarantee that the wedding will be seen as valid by other countries if it takes place outside of a legal jurisdiction?

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if the person is in jail, but no if attending on medical grounds.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

The cost of this should be waived if one party is terminally ill. It's embarrassing to ask for one party to pay a fee for something in an emergency like that.

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but £50 does not cover the costs involved. The fee needs doubling at least.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Councils should be left to set their own fees.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Councils to set their own fees on a commercial basis.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A set national charge should apply.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think the proposals will increase the numbers at all, just widen the choice of venue. It will also create bureaucratic problems for Register Offices. GRO would also have to improve their speed of processing applications. For example, they take about 6 weeks to authorise corrections to register entries at the moment, yet charge a fee of up to £90.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



1-4: The costs should be set by the local authorities based on their own geographical situations and travelling distances to venues.

5: Of course there has to be a legally recognised wedding. It creates more stability in society and forces people to look at their responsibilities. It provides protection to women and children otherwise irresponsible people can just walk away from things without financial consequence.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

What savings? It's a nonsense to even think there would be any.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The current law is perfectly fine in terms of who attends ceremonies.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD15-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-10 18:22:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married Church in Wales

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

family attended church

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

should still be a mi of 3 months other than exceptional circumstances

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A friend or family member should be able to officiate

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

they should be pub in all churches in the diocese

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

agree with both points

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

agreed

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be officiated by someone of the couples choosing

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers should be able to officiate at a service of the couples choice

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

weddings should be allowed to take place at a venue of the couples choice including out venues that don't have a licence

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

the officiant and couple married should be responsible

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

should be carried out by an officiant of the couples choice

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

sho be officiated by someone of the couples choosing

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure it would encourage more people to marry but allow secular groups religious and non to have a service that suits them in a venue that suits them

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1E-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-11 12:55:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Chelmer Marquees Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Essex

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We are a Marquee Hire Company who specialise in the hiring Marquees for Weddings. Due to Covid-19 Government restrictions, the majority of our hires for weddings have been postponed or are in the process of being arranged until next year.

The process of rearrangement for the couples marrying and for ourselves has been extremely difficult mainly due to the Registered establishments availability; forcing some couples to delay further and arrange their wedding for 2022, (when their original booked date was in 2020).

We feel that the demand for weddings/Civil partnerships has now out met the supply of registered establishments. We supply marquees for receptions that are usually placed at family homes, or suitable spaces that are personal and have meaning to the couple.

We would like to see more flexibility to where couples can marry to increase availability moving forward.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some of our clients are UK citizens but live and work away abroad. It may be impractical to have seven days prior as this along with the honeymoon period would lengthen the time away from work.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives people who have busy lifestyles/ work away from home, flexibility.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q4

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In agreement

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I have no knowledge of what is involved with immigration control to comment.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The continuing professional development, how would this be monitored?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Their should be no limitations.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The provisional proposal would increase the number of couples who are legally married. by offering choice and flexibility to suit our diverse society.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1T-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-11 16:01:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

United Reformed Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

None

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

no

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

wanted an outdoor wedding and a religious service, could not have both

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

none

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

what difference does it make where someone lives? They should be able to marry anywhere they like without residence  
And the idea of notice itself - antiquated really. Does anyone actually go to the registrar's office and look at the notices?

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Some part needs to be in person, to make sure the application is genuine

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes it should

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

i am unsure, as displaying online might increase identity theft and fraud with so much personal information readily available

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as now

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

if the certificate is good for a year, what about if the officiant has moved?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

don't know, not Anglican

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems an old antiquated law

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

why not?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. yes

2. yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

isn't one system for all simpler? Everyone knows where they stand if all are the same

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiate in civil weddings, yes but what about churches that do not have authorized persons to act as registrar?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

don't know

Consultation Question 23:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

by "organization" do you mean denomination or local parish church? Many individual churches are less than 20 people

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

that's a slippery slope, who defines?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but they should have to prove some kind of training or authorization

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes, but hard to prove or enforce. Weddings are big business.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

like all jobs, they should be reviewed and credentials up to date

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure, as many people would be doing this in their spare time

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

readings, poems, music often have some religious content

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

no, marriage should be allowed everywhere

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

non religious or civil wouldn't want to be in religious, but they should have the choice

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

civil places are approved now, why change that?

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

date, location ok, but why names and particularly occupations of parents? old fashioned

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure. some mistakes are picky. Failure to register or have witnesses is not

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

no, who defines the length of time? What if children are involved? Legally you either are or are not

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if they aren't happy or get divorced would they sue the officiant?

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

if marriage could be done anywhere there wouldn't be

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

though it depends on how long it might take

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

isn't that the length of time for everyone?

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure about this, only in emergency but not generally

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but are there other reasons as well?

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

private yachts, military ships, cargo ships, submarines, why not?

### Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

why not religious officiants, many ships have chaplains

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

yes, cruise ships, private ships

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as it is now M-F 9-5 is an hourly rate, but weekends and holidays are set differently and can be 5 times the amount. Not fair on folks as most weddings are on weekends

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

church buildings put people off, even if they wish some religious content. Neutral settings are often to make family more comfortable. It may not lead to more getting married, but offers more choice and less stress to those who do

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

2. these seem very expensive, as you have to buy a package
3. churches aren't expensive, but if a registrar is needed to attend that can more than double the cost. In my authority £90 for a weekday, £600 for a bank holiday .
5. sometimes cheaper to do with a religious service

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. cheap and cheerful and that's what some folks want
2. buying a package could be cheaper in the long run. Having just an officiant at a private home is cheaper
3. separate legally recognised wedding may not be cheaper, but may be what some folks want to do

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Resulting from increased regulations; marriage, civil partnership, same sex, we gave up our authorized person at church and now require a registrar to come in. Have had only 1 wedding since, as the cost of church and registrar is too expensive

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

venues shouldn't need government "approval" but compliance with rules.  
registration officers fees should be standardized  
religious officiants should be able to officiate anywhere

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

confusion on registration of officiants when same-sex came in. Separate authorization of not? Different opinions depending on who you spoke to.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

anything that is clear and transparent and easily accessible will be a benefit

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. residents should be able to be married anywhere in England and Wales
2. overseas jurisdictions - does that mean Commonwealth or any other countries? Less keen on that, as it seems harder to control and deal with paperwork

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

freedom as more people are more mobile these days, also don't usually live in their home "church" where they might like to be married. Inconsistency with this from registrars. Why should you have to be married in the district where you live?

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

don't know it

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

3., 4., 5., might be cheaper if system was standardized



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD12-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-12 10:10:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a Church of England priest, I have conducted 2 weddings, with a few more to come before the end of the year. With the exception of not including any hymns, they have been much as they might have been without the pandemic.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This wouldn't allow for proper checking of ID, and would be too open to abuse.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I was unaware that banns could be published in any of those places for marriages in England and Wales. I have been previously advised by the Registrar that residents of Scotland were required to obtain a Common Licence for precisely this reason.

### Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Since couples can marry in parishes where neither of them has ever lived (for example, if the Qualifying Connection is through their parents' or grandparents' wedding) banns could serve even less purpose in the wedding location than in the parishes where they actually live.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It's my understanding that clergy are \*already\* required to check documentary evidence of ID, eligibility to marry in the desired place, and the formal ending of any previous marriage (Decree Absolute).  
The requirement to meet each of the couple separately seems unnecessary, though clergy should already do that if they have any doubts about the couple.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

The documentary evidence required for granting a Common Licence is already sufficient to meet this criterion.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

In today's mobile society, banns have lost virtually all their original purpose. The community knowledge of people's affairs has all-but vanished. There are very few occasions on which the couple whose banns are being published are actually known to anyone in the congregation.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I imagine many non-religious people would find this definition problematic.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The lower limit of 20 is very small, and offers too much scope for abuse.

A "sincerely held belief about marriage" is too broad - for example, such a belief might include that marriage should be polygamous.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This would be open to abuse.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There would be no way to reasonably determine the relationship between making a profit (which is necessary - officiants have to get their money from \*somewhere\*) and the 'beliefs' involved. In any case, 'beliefs' might \*include\* the desire to maximise profits.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why ever not?

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is self-contradictory: points 1 and 3 are in conflict.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Where the officiant is part of an organisation, particularly a religious one, there need to be a basic set of requirements which are essential.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Except in emergencies, holding a wedding in a private home would violate the principle of marriage as a public act of commitment. 'In the air' also severely limits the public aspect of a wedding.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

(1) would seem to prevent civil weddings from taking place \*anywhere\*!

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Does this mean "the officiant must agree to the location" (as in 53 below)? In which case, yes.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

'Dignified' is open to a huge range of interpretation.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could result in couples mischievously requiring officiants to register a marriage in a language they don't understand.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2 and 3 at least should made the marriage void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None I am aware of.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In some cases, there may not be time for this.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable since I answered No above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As with other non-land-based weddings, such a provision would severely limit the public aspect of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As with other non-land-based weddings, such a provision would severely limit the public aspect of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As with other non-land-based weddings, such a provision would severely limit the public aspect of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think such ceremonies should be allowed specifically under the laws of England and Wales.



Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think such ceremonies should be allowed specifically under the laws of England and Wales.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think such ceremonies should be allowed specifically under the laws of England and Wales.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think such ceremonies should be allowed specifically under the laws of England and Wales.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The proposed changes have little impact directly on the Church of England weddings with which I am familiar. They may result in fewer people choosing to marry in CofE churches rather than in other venues.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1F-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-12 20:56:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I normally officiate at about ten - fifteen weddings each year. This has been reduced to just two because of Covid-19 restrictions - particularly on the number of guests permitted to attend a wedding ceremony. Most couples have deferred their wedding to a future date.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this question

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

If everything is in order, there is no need to delay unnecessarily.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews ought to be the standard approach with remote interviews permissible only in extreme situations.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. This should continue to be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe the officiant could be identified at a later date.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any duly authorised officiant should be able to officiate at a ceremony with a valid schedule.

Please share your views below:

Any duly authorised officiant should be able to officiate at a ceremony with a valid schedule.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst the UK is a single nation, banns published within Scotland or Northern Island should be valid for an Anglican wedding in England or Wales.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Although this is now largely a redundant rule, it is worth leaving in the act in case it is required at some future date.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It would be preferable for banns to authorise an Anglican wedding to continue as at present. If they are to be simplified, it ought to be that the banns are read in the parish of residence and not in the Church where the wedding is to take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

YES, clergy should have the power to call for documentary evidence and be required to check such evidence; and NO, clergy should not be required to meet with each of the couple separately before banns are published.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I am very happy with the current preliminaries required for a Church of England wedding. Banns of marriage enable us to build a better relationship with the couple and help to spot any potential sham marriages.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes provided that Anglican clergy are given the role of officiant in this context.

There are already enough extra people present at a wedding. I do not require someone else there to get in the way.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an ancient tradition that ought to be upheld.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to religious organisations; but no to non-religious belief organisations.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, where the organisation or religion promotes purposes that are unlawful, these ought to be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I have no views either way on this matter.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the obligation to engage in continuing professional development.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Too many couples have been upset by not having their choice of music because it contains a religious connotation.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should only be repealed if the provision to allow some religious content at a civil wedding is given.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access should always be allowed for the purposes of raising an objection

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, anywhere subject to being registered as a place for weddings. This would help to retain the dignity of the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The pre-approval process could be by application to the GRO

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would prefer for the registration of Church of England marriages to continue in its current form.

I believe it would be appropriate for the names and occupations of the parties' parents - mother, father, parent, stepmother, stepfather, adopted parent etc to be added to the register entry.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I agree, but I also think it is important for a couple to leave the wedding ceremony with their certificate of marriage in hand.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided it is not for a shorter period. It is possible that lack of consent only comes to light several years after the marriage.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Personally I do not agree with the marriage of prisoners. Those who have had their freedom restricted because of criminal activity should not have the freedom to be married.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, although this may need to be done online or by a visit to the parties at home, hospital or in a hospice.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule is the worst idea of all these marriage reforms and should be scrapped. Couples want to walk out of their ceremony with a fully registered and certified marriage.

However, if the schedule is to go ahead, there should be a good length of time for it to be returned so that a couple can enjoy their honeymoon without worrying about paperwork. In the case of Church weddings, the officiant could post the document to the registrar on the couples behalf.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is discriminatory

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As an clerk in Holy orders, I am happy with the fees set by the Church of England and our ability to waive those fees in exceptional circumstances. They are not prohibitive to couples getting married. In most cases, they form a very small percentage of the total wedding costs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no views on this matter.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no views on this matter.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this matter.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1Y-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-13 15:03:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

United Reformed Church- Cumbria

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Select

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

due to restriction closing buildings, we have been unable to offer weddings.

if outdoor weddings had been possible at least some could have gone ahead

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

registration district is so large as to be meaningless. (whole of Cumbria) and yet folk who would like a religious wedding are disadvantaged if they would also wish to go to another area for family or personal reasons.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this enables notice to be checked before interview happens (but in person is needed to check identity)

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

why does there need to be a break at all. most folk will want to but if there is a desire to get married why wait more than a day?

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

this would be a modern way of doing things. if I can get a bank loan based on electronic identity why not a marriage

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes. being in the very north of England it is not uncommon for me to be dealing with couples who cross the border

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this gives flexibility in planning and assurance to venue/celebrant that all is in order especially at popular places or times

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes, where a officiant is a minister of religion who moves during the preparation period (if 12 months as suggested above I cannot promise to be in place in 12 months time)

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

its a nonsense as they are in different registration systems. the Anglican church should adopt the same system as the rest of us

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

yes. although not my responsibility it is overly complicated to use home registration system

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

would it not be better to detach identity and permission to marry from the religious aspect. regard banns as an internal matter for the church but authority to get married in a legal way to be given by the state

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

it is discriminatory that one bit of one faith group can operate legal marriages outwith the state system. the state should od the legal part and the faith group the religious whether that is banns or something else

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there are times when the person dealing with the religious ceremony is not on the registered list or wouldn't wish for that commitment and responsibility. also there are problems if folk would like a bit of a mix with say a civil wedding but religious music

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this is both similar to Scotland and reflects the position of the church of England but allows for non-ordained people to be authorised in the traditions (like mine) which permit it

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

no. if they are acting unlawfully they should be prosecuted. there would have been times when some Christian churches promoted unlawful activity (including same gender weddings)

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

broadly no assuming recognising individuals is easy to do why would particular offices require a separate assumption

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

when conducting legal acts officiants should be a part of an accountable body (faith group government department etc). as below who would check fit and proper status of independent folk

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

we would wish to appoint non-ordained people to this task but would want to retain some control over who local churches appoint

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

i don't know how you would test this. if I step out of line my church could remove me so I don't see why this is a greater issue than for example hotels making money

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

you can only have one accountable body

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

both are subjective positions which would be difficult to show. what I think is dignified you might think of as not. how could we decide on that?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but it will need suitable resources to d this

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the present situation is just silly as we know the preliminaries have already been done

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

well i suppose you could withdraw it and it would make no difference we can d inchurch whatever we like.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

the only requirement should be that it is possible to do whatever the registration law needs to contract the marriage

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

because to get married anywhere should not require that my garden is available to others

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

i can imagine for community reasons permitting a civil wedding on our property and surely what I permit in my property is up to me and my trustees no one else

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

safe yes, dignified is subjective

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

thus the officiant would know that it was a safe place

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if it is easy to register then why not do so

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but should be done quickly and on line

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

discount should be applied

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

the united reformed church has offered local congregations the facility to register under the same-sex marriages act. this works well but there are places where the view of minister and church diverge and the capacity for ministers to be authorised to register marriages in other places would help this. we are not tied to buildings in the way some traditions are (although we have plenty of them) and the capacity to hold weddings in spaces where new communities are gathering (eg school halls ) would open up better relationships with new church groups. these proposals would remove from local congregations the increasingly difficult task of securing registers and certificates and sending quarterly returns (which although a small task feels onerous in buildings which have weddings infrequently)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

costs to us as a religious body seem small or capable with.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1S-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-13 16:27:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People are not bound by place and have good reason to get married in a different location such as where they were born, studied, met etc

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Getting an appointment can be hard so it should be based on the making of one not simply the attendance at a personal interview.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Seems appropriate as a possibility

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe if an officiant was unwell etc at the last minute could this be more problematic than current practice?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current system is confusing and based on outdated ideas around parish

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At religious services it is often the authorised person conducting the ceremony

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayers, poems, music or readings from sacred texts should be allowed within this context without negating the fact the ceremony itself is civil.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure of the basis of this, would this mean it is not allowed or doesn't formally need such consent? I think it should be permitted but hopefully would be needed less if rules of what is possible within a civil ceremony were relaxed.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The religious integrity of a religious building should be respected. There is a big difference from a reading or prayers in a civil ceremony to a place of religious worship being used for a civil ceremony

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be very helpful

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No there is little rational reason for the need for this other than financial gain by those arranging such ceremonies.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There is little within the proposals that will equalise the situation for same sex couples. I would hope this is given further thought and the ability for same sex couples to marry in religious settings should be made easier whilst respecting religious conscious/requirements

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The proposals will open up options although could be used by many venues simply to increase revenue. I fear that religious organizations that may at times choose to wave certain fees will be unable to do so and poorer members of society will find it harder or prohibitive to get married on this basis.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD66-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-15 13:11:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Bittenham Springs Weddings

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Gloucestershire

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We conducted one wedding in year 2020 due to covid. The restrictions in numbers prevented us from holding weddings. Zero income from the wedding business this year.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should still be a requirement.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be modernized and prevent unnecessary red tape.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think interviews should be in person so if a forced marriage is occurring the interview should detect possible problems via zoom etc could involve 3 parties.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree keep this notice

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

an officiant still needs to oversee this is so important

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but maybe somebody else can also be involved in ceremony to make it more personal

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

save costs

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

need specific training

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

dont agree

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

no must be under the umbrella of government

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

need to cover specific training by a recognized body

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

government led

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allow this to happen

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as notice is given so public knowledge

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

should be in a dignified manner managed in a quiet orderly manner

Please share your views below:

pollution worries in air and in waterways need to be considered

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

government backing only

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

sites should be inspected do not think peoples homes are a good idea needs to be a venue of some sort but allow marriages by lakes trees etc

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

councils only

## Chapter 8: Registration



Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

just the area where marriage took place

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

definitely paperwork is outdated!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

pollution worries

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

cruise ships only

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

a one off fee to be registered only

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think it stops people getting married perhaps house bound people

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

it costs 1000,50 to marry at our venue to include seating

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

the set fee is quite a lot for my venue who hold only a few weddings. I think a sliding scale fee for payment would be fairer so the more you do the more you pay for your licence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

We never have problems getting registrys, I dont think much would change

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

wedding venues would lose money already been a tough year. Many would close impacting jobs and taxes. People will go to a venue for a party so makes sense to keep it under one umbrella as it is. I do think tech could be used to cut down on paperwork which would be a saving for government. House bound people should be allowed to marry at home

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7P-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-15 15:10:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private citizen Landowner

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

[REDACTED]

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Dear Sirs

I was unclear on how to submit my feed back but I have summarised my concerns below.

The scope of you review fails to account for three aspects of the impact of these changes landowners rights, social impact and environmental protection. I think failing to recognises these aspects will be very damaging.

With regard to land owners right opening up the location to be anywhere needs to be written in the context of landowners rights and protections.

It has be come very popular to get married on a beach. Unfortunately most coastal/beach land although privately owned has had protections removed by Coastal Margin Legislation over recent years. This legislation has the potential to further erode any protections. As an owner of some coastal land including a beach the land owners legal rights are generally not respected, impossible to enforce and the abuse of property including damage and environmental damage is widespread and the costs tend to fall on the landowner. The same aspects apply to agricultural/rural land.

The environmental damage fro these wedding events can also be substantial. I have given an example below.

The context of much of this land is that it has neither the access or facilities to support such events so parking can significantly obstruct residents going about their normal business there are inevitably not toilet or other facilities which can create substantial health problems. The filming of these events using drones is often an invasion of privacy overflying neighbouring properties.

Once a venue becomes known it becomes a popular attraction.

[REDACTED]

Recent behaviours over the summer have shown the lack of respect a substantial portion of the community have for sensitive coastal or rural environments leaving land owners with substantial clean up bills and damage to the environment.

Your proposal for open venues legitimises abuse of private land, and will have substantial social and environmental impacts. Remember many of these locations are insensitive environmental areas often with poorer communities who have to bear the costs of the significant mess left by these wedding parties.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes some one should be liable for damages.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again someone should be accountable for safety and environmental protections.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

See response to question 7 there are likely to be substantial costs for landowners from social and environmental disruption.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD78-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-16 11:07:04

About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Wills Marquees Limited

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

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Email:

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7Z-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-16 11:25:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Northants

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am fine with you sharing my information, but not my name or my contact details

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My partner and I are legally married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

As a lesbian couple we were not legally allowed to get married in the Anglican church we both attend, so we arranged to be married legally by a celebrant in the Scottish Highlands. However we regard it as a real shame that we were not allowed to actually get married at our own local church, before God,

before our church friends, and our families.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience during this period.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why have that hurdle at all?

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We gave notice by post and in-person interview (it was a bit expensive as it involved travelling to the Scottish Highlands from the Midlands twice in a week, but it was worth it).

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

If it was just three days, we would not have had to travel \*twice\* to the Scottish Highlands from the Midlands.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Personally I would be happy with this option, but I worry in situations where someone may be being co-erced to get married.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I favour as much flexibility as possible.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm a bit concerned. Is that really necessary?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I like that flexibility.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing further to add.

Consultation Question 12:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems common-sense.

Please share your views below:

Yes, birth of a child, or grandchild, and other reasonable circumstances.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't really understand this question. From my point of view, being lesbian, a couple should be allowed to be married in any church, and the restriction (if there has to be one) should be on the priest not the location.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I don't really mind - let the couple decide?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Why? If one person is good enough for other celebrants, why should the Anglican officiant require two?

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Again, one should be enough. The danger is a kind of intrusive cross-questioning by some priests. People should not have to justify themselves to a priest. The only relevant question is: would the marriage be legal? That can be discussed by a single face-to-face with one of the couple.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

The second would make the process more consistent.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our officiant in Scotland was wonderful.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not religious ones too?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing further to say.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to training and external audit.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the couple should be able to choose.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that's too restrictive. There needn't be a belief system of any kind.

Please share your views below:

Any officiant should be qualified and subject to civil audit and authorisation. Beyond that, the only exception might be proscribed organisations.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A belief system should not be mandatory.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Who defines 'public morality'?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Each individual should be trained, qualified for the task, and audited.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is good - for consistency of process.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I just think that anyone should be considered, and assessed for practice.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't like the whole 'nominating' aspect. What does "fit and proper" mean? Anti-gay weddings?

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is exactly the process that should be followed, and it should be applied to ministers of religion etc too. They should have to be passed via the same process, rather than parachuted in direct by a religious organisation, which may discriminate in its treatment of LGBT people, as for example the Church of England does at present. If a member of the Church of England is gay or lesbian, for example, they should be allowed to be married in their home church by an independently qualified member of the Church of England, presiding over the wedding in place of the local priest. If that had been possible, we would undoubtedly have been legally married in our home church (which would have been fine with our particular congregation), instead of travelling to the Scottish Highlands where we knew a celebrant who could personalise our wedding. In short *\*everyone\** should have to undergo the same mandatory training and CPD, in one process, consistent for all.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is plain and obvious.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some flexibility to cover agreed costs, but there should be a ceiling for the basic fee for the execution of the marriage.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I mostly feel 'Yes' but who gets to define 'solemnity'? If people want comedy and fun in their marriage service, that should be fine, as long as there is also a recognition that the marriage commitment is serious and has real legal commitments involved. It should not be for government to define the tone of people's weddings, and if they want hilarity as an expression of celebration, that should be fine.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sort of. But this should not limit varieties of expression, tone, humour, seriousness - providing there is a recognition by all parties that they are making a serious and responsible legal commitment. We should not be 'tone policing' people's weddings, so any guidance by the GTO should focus on the bare necessities needed to carry out the technicalities of the marriage, rather than restrictions on how a wedding is conducted.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. In that case, a religious officiant who reflected institutional prejudices on LGBT people might be allowed to practice in a way that would not be sanctioned by civil authorities. The power to officiate, and the need to be subject to audit or complaint, should be administered by the civil authority.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is important.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, totally.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I only agree if there are periodic audits and continuing CPD, and those should be carried out by the civil authority, not by a 'nominating' institution.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely. Societal needs and values change and evolve, and it seems obvious that CPD should be mandatory for all officiants. That should apply whether the officiant is 'independent' or 'nominated'.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think point 4 requires greater clarity. Otherwise I agree.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, people should be able to design their own weddings, with the state only requiring limited but essential legal components.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not entirely agree. As a lesbian couple, and bona fide members of our local Anglican church, I believe we should have the right to be married in our church, by an independent officiant if we choose, and in a service that does not impose more than the essential components for marriage applicable to civil equivalents. In short, while priests may be required by the institution only to marry certain people, if their location (the parish church) is a place where non-LGBT people are married, that location should be available for LGBT people as well, even if the couple have to find an officiant from a different Anglican province or an independent officiant. The Church of England should not be allowed to operate a 'chokehold' on who may or may not be married on their premises. It should be down to local priests to exercise choice as to whether they are celebrants themselves, but access for weddings should not be closed off for LGBT couples.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Just because a ceremony is 'civil' does not mean the participants can't express religious convictions important and precious to them.

Please share your views below:

Prayers should be allowed, as one example.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If people want an entirely private and intimate wedding service, they should be allowed to have one.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anywhere = at any venue designated for weddings, and any other venue, indoors or outdoors where the participants have permission to gather for this purpose.

Please share your views below:

Why does it matter where a wedding takes place, providing it is executed with proper legal intent and authority? Open air weddings can be really beautiful. Marriage in a private home can be intimate and personal. What matters is that any such marriage is preceded by a check that the marriage is consensual for both individuals, and that check should be carried out by the civil authority.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but obviously there should be an assumption that attempts will be made to get the permission of a landowner or farmer, especially if such a service might interfere with the way that land was being used.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

By answering 'No', to be clear, I mean that NONE of these should be prohibited.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, that seems fair, but the couple should then have the option of finding a different officiant.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

'Yes' to the 'safe' bit - definitely.

But who is to define whether a location is 'dignified' and what does that even mean? It's subjective.

The officiant should have the right to choose not to carry out a wedding if they do not wish to, in which case the couple should be allowed to seek out a different officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sort of. I still worry about the subjective aspect of what constitutes 'dignified'. Some advice and guidelines might help, with examples, but I don't think they should be binding.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That makes sense.

Please share your views below:

A local registrar should be able to receive applications, check them out, and add them to a list. However, this should in no way mean locations NOT on the list are not permitted.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, providing the parental part is not mandatory.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that's obvious.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Use technology to make life convenient, but the systems must be failsafe and secure.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In points 3 and 4, I would say 'either' party, rather than 'both'.

In 4, the 'opt in' or 'opt out' in relationship to LGBT couples should only apply to the right of an officiant to 'opt out' of marrying such a couple, but should not apply to any location.

At any location where straight couples can be married, LGBT couples should be able to be married too. Their marriages are legally recognised simply as marriages - regardless of gender - and there should be no discrimination in the UK. However, the religious consciences of individual priests should be respected: they should have the right to 'opt out' of officiating, but in that event, if the LGBT couple employ a different officiant, they should be permitted access to any location used for other weddings.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there may be a case for a follow-up procedure to legalise any shortfall in the original schedule, but I do not think the requirements for witnesses and signatures should just be ignored.

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I would say that if \*either\* party (not \*both\*) contravenes requirements then there should be suspension/invalidation until such time as that can be corrected.

On the LGBT issue, I do not at all believe that any 'religious governing authority' should be allowed to require an 'opt in'. A marriage is a marriage. The issue is whether specific officiating individuals wish to exercise a right of 'opt out' on conscientious grounds from officiating at the ceremony itself. In that event, the same sex couple should be allowed to request a different officiant to celebrate the service. The restrictions should only apply to individuals' right of conscience, not to locations.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't find this question very clear, and I don't see how the cohabitation issue is relevant in any way.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that long-term cohabitants should have the same legal rights to things like pensions etc as officially married people. However, a process should exist so that, if they wish, at a later date, they can confirm that their relationship has marital status. That choice should be theirs, but a process should be available to them.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is tricky I think. Probably each case should be assessed on its own merits and evidence, but I recognise that the longer this goes without such a petition, the harder it may be to discern the original intentions and consent. I tend to prefer abolishing the time limit, out of fear for people who may have been socially coerced into marriage. People can take time to find their courage and voice to complain.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to offer input in this section.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to offer input to this question.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to offer input to this question.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to offer input to this question.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to offer input to this question.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In a situation such as Covid-19 lockdown, I agree.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible, to keep things consistent for all.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to offer input to this question.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems fine. Location should be a couple's choice. The legalities are important. Just because you get married on a boat should not make it any less legal.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I like this idea. I think there needs to be further careful consideration of the detail though.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I do not think the type of vessel matters. The officiant must be qualified and registered. The wedding itself must meet all the general legal requirements. Otherwise, it seems fine, and the choice should belong to the couple and an officiant willing and qualified to see that everything is executed legally.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can't see why the name of the officiant should not be required. One pre-supposes reasonable advance planning, at which point an officiant should be identified (although I can see a case for a substitute officiant to be used, if the named officiant is unable to take the service for justifiable reasons).



Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the officiant is trained and registered, that all seems fine.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The same rules should apply to ALL officiants, and ALL officiants should be periodically audited, and required to undertake update CPD.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the answer is 'Yes' but what about 'nominated' officiants of religious organisations? Basically, I believe the key thing is that the officiant is qualified, on a civil register (which I think priests should be too), and adheres to all requirements to make the marriage legal.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea if there is a demand, but I see no reason why ANY officiant should not be permitted to officiate, if they are qualified and registered by civil authority.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that any time limit should commence when the couple return to the UK, but that using technology some kind of confirmatory process should be necessary if, for example, the couple do not propose to return to the UK within, say, a year.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - a person should not be penalised for being housebound. Any costs incurred should be paid for out of the public purse.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

I believe the extra cost should be 'zero'. A person should not be financially penalised for being ill. Any costs involved should be paid for out of the public purse.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is important that new freedoms in wedding law do not lead to the ending of this valued provision.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think there should be a charge for this. It should be part of a registration officer's remit.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but I suggest there should be a ceiling to what can be charged, and it should be a very modest sum.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Personally, I believe there should be 'zero' fees, beyond standard registry office marriage fees, when a person is housebound. Why should they be penalised if they are unable to leave home because of medical condition? Any extra costs incurred should be paid for by the state.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not entirely clear what this question is saying - but I think there should only be the standard fee that would be charged if the couple were able to be married in the registry office. There should be no additional fee for the registrar travelling etc. The state should cover any additional costs. Otherwise the terminally-ill person is being financially discriminated against. That would be invidious.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I wish to offer no input on this question.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We are a lesbian couple and bona fide members of our local Anglican church. Our priest believes in the legitimacy of lesbian marriage, but is prevented by law from marrying us. The PCC (local church governing body) supports and affirms our right to be married. The local church congregation itself is affirming and supportive and the church belongs to the Inclusive Church movement.

I feel your proposed provisions may not go far enough, as they do not seem to raise the possibility of LGBT people being married in Anglican churches, or the argument that religious organisations may protect the consciences of (some of) their priests, but should not be able to bar LGBT couples from marriage in churches where straight couples can marry, if an alternative officiant can be found. Marriage is marriage. That is a nationwide legal recognition. Restrictions against same sex marriage should apply (if at all) only to Anglican priests, but not to the use of locations. LGBT people should have equal access to all locations.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think the key thing is cost. I believe the state should provide a basic service that is as cheap as possible, to encourage couples to marry if they wish to.

However, if a couple want bells and whistles, then I think they take that choice, and need to be willing to pay for the extra things.

Current laws fall short, not because of existing costs, but because of restrictions on choice, variety of location, and expression.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In the end, because our priest (though willing to marry us) was not able to legally marry us, we made the decision, as a lesbian couple, to travel to the Scottish Highlands, where an inter-faith celebrant married us in Glencoe in a traditional Highland handfast wedding. The location was fantastic, surrounded by stunning natural scenery. The service was both intimate and deeply moving. The celebrant was outstanding ( [REDACTED] ).

I think Scotland's provisions are far less restrictive than England's and it is time for change. I believe weddings should be able to be held indoors or outdoors, and at locations that have never been used before. This enhances marriage. It makes it extra special to the people involved. It also opens up possibilities for the services to be designed by participants and celebrant together, in ways that are deeply personal and meaningful to the individuals. I commend many of the changes proposed in this consultation.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No further input on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I refer to my answer to the second part of Question 86.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no further input on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no further input on this.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not wish to offer any input on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not wish to offer any input on this.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no input to make on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no input to make on this.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

To encourage marriage, as an individual choice and as an institution, it is important that basic costs should be as low as possible. That is pretty obvious. Should local officers be required to officiate at dispersed locations? Personally I believe the network of officiants should be expanded, and training/ongoing audit/CPD expanded, to address what I foresee to be a significant increase in requests for marriages outdoors and in many locations

never used before. But I believe the changes would be worth it.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7E-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-16 21:29:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a Registrar-Celebrant, I find that weddings are very restricted, but that's inevitable with the hotpotch system we have at the moment. People are either postponing their wedding or having a tiny restricted wedding so that they are legally protected, and perhaps they will have their big celebration at some

future post-pandemic date.

It would be a lot simpler if we had the system they have in France, where ALL marriages are required to have a small legal ceremony in their Town Hall, and then are free to go on to have whatever ceremony they want: in a church, on a beach, with pagan rites, whatever. It would be far easier, more flexible to all tastes and religions and less costly to administer. It would work better in a pandemic, because the legal part would be discrete, is more amenable to the addition of technology for social distancing, and keeps legal documents secure. The celebratory part is completely separated and can be conducted wherever and whenever it is allowed to take place, according to the wishes of the couple and current requirements of their location.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I understood that the 28 day period was to help the Home Office step in to stop sham marriages. If there are other ways of dealing with this, then seven days seems adequate.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

That would be helpful for pandemic situations. But how would these concerns arise unless you see the person in person. You get a lot more information about someone from a personal interview than you do on a screen, and you can also guarantee that they are alone in the room with you and not under pressure from someone off-screen.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If it's online, why not.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is the original purpose of notices of marriage. Is it still necessary?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People plan to marry and then something goes wrong - illness, accident. It seems pointless to have to go through the whole notice of marriage again just because the wedding had to be postponed by a few months.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like make-work.

The schedule is issued and is valid a year in advance. It would not be possible to know who was going to officiate so long in advance, so most schedules would have to be re-issued, probably more than once.

If the officiant's name is wanted, why not handwrite it in on the day of the ceremony, as the witnesses' names are handwritten, then no need to re-issue

schedule for last minute change.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Or don't name the officiant in the schedule - just handwrite the name in. Like you do the witnesses.

Please share your views below:

Yes - make it possible so that last minute illness doesn't mess up everyone's day. Ideally don't include the officiant's name on the schedule but leave a space for it to be written in as the witnesses' names are. Make it flexible and don't put in unnecessary barriers.

#### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Everyone should be required to give notice of marriage. The vicars would thank you for it.

#### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Do away with banns and require notice of marriage for everyone. If the church wants to announce banns at its services, fine, but detach this from the legal administrative notice of marriage which is ascertaining if a couple is legally allowed to marry. The latter should be handled by trained staff in register offices. Ideally, use the French system of having the legal marriage take place as a civil ceremony, then the church is freed to undertake marriage according to its own rites and ceremonies, free of the legal administrative burden.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

If all couples are required to give notice of marriage, this will be done by the registration service. More secure and puts the job of checking documents where it should be: with trained staff, not clergy. Better still, have the French system where the entire legal marriage is undertaken as a precursor to the church marriage. Keep legal matters in legal hands, keep religious matters in religious hands.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Separate does mean that each can feel free to speak, and keeps out those who might pressure the individuals.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Keep legal matters in legal hands, keep religious matters in religious hands. Ideally, make a legal civil marriage a preliminary to a church marriage. But if that is not acceptable, then all church marriages should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As they do at the present time? No change there?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If there is a schedule, there is no need for more than one registration officer.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No, because ideally not only legal preliminaries but also the legal ceremony should be conducted by trained staff at registration offices. This frees clergy from the legal administrative burden and frees registration staff from the task of repairing the mistakes that are frequently made by clergy who do not conduct weddings frequently and therefore get it wrong. Legal matters are too important to be left to people whose main business is not legal administration. Legal weddings should be civil as the law is civil. Once the legal marriage is done, religions and humanists can have freedom to do whatever they and the couple want as a marriage ceremony, unconstrained by civil law.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes if they must. It makes it unnecessarily complicated and it would be far better for all legal marriages to be civil marriages, as a preliminary to a church or other style of marriage.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If you must, but why not just have civil legal weddings as a preliminary to any other sort of wedding.

This definition includes Pagans - and why not? It's a belief system.

Please share your views below:

It would be SO MUCH SIMPLER to just have civil legal weddings as a preliminary to any other sort of wedding and then you wouldn't have to name a long string of constantly changing belief organisations as not qualifying.  
The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster? But why not? They meet and have views. It's a can of worms.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster and others can meet these criteria, I'm sure.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - if churches and other organisations are holding legal ceremonies they must comply with the civil law of the land.

However, that might be challenged by evangelical Christians and other religions who promote discriminatory practices against eg homosexuals and transsexuals. How about Catholic Church which promotes anti-contraception and anti-abortion. Can of worms again.

If, however, the legal wedding had taken place as a civil ceremony, you need not trouble yourself with the purposes of the belief organisation at all, and the church could be as bigoted as it wished within its own walls among consenting adults.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Horrible job, but it has to be kept control of. Marriage is a legal contract and needs supervision by a civil legal institution.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they are carrying out legal ceremonies they need to be authorised.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Registration Service should have a veto if they turn out to be unfit and improper. There are clergymen who by civil law are unfit and improper, yet still carrying out wedding ceremonies and are protected by their institution.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the clergy are to continue undertaking this task, they need proper training which they do not at present receive.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Limiting their fees would only get them to make elaborate arrangements for getting around it

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A legal marriage is a legal undertaking and should be undertaken soberly. However, there can be humour, and costume and personal touches. I hope that the law about having no food and drink partaken in the room for two hours before is dropped. It is unhelpful and unnecessary.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So much simpler to have the Registration Service exclusively conduct the legal wedding as a secular preliminary, as they do in France, and to let the various institutions do whatever they want for their own weddings rather than try to control and legislate for untold variety.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because the Registration Service cannot supervise all these officiants. And yet the work they are doing is the business of the Registration Service.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the Registration Service cannot supervise all these officiants. And yet the work they are doing is the business of the Registration Service.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So you have a legal marriage system and then you allow 3 bodies to operate outside it? How about other forms of law?

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Music is the main request. At civil ceremonies couples often want to play music that was written for religious purposes, and at present we are not allowed to. This is silly and change would be welcomed. It is artificial to tell someone that they can't play "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" or have "Ave Maria" sung.

Most poems and readings are already allowed with incidental references to a god, but sometimes registrars get confused and don't allow them. Remove the restriction and make it simple - let the couple have whatever they want. It's still a civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

as above :Music is the main request. At civil ceremonies couples often want to play music that was written for religious purposes, and at present we are not allowed to. This is silly and change would be welcomed. It is artificial to tell someone that they can't play "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" or have "Ave

Maria" sung.

Most poems and readings are already allowed with incidental references to a god - Kahlil Gibran, many poems - but sometimes registrars get confused and don't allow them. Remove the restriction and make it simple - let the couple have whatever they want. It's still a civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No! There are sometimes people who want a religious ceremony but cannot do so in a church for some reason. Then it is just fine for the civil ceremony to happen, the registrars to leave, and the pagan/Jewish/Catholic/whatever ceremony to begin.

Why would they be forbidden to do so?

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In practice it doesn't happen, because of outside noise etc. Pointless.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If the legality resides in the officiant, not the location, sounds good. Flexible.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People could then hold their wedding in their own garden if they liked.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the legality resides in the officiant, the religion should also reside in the people rather than the place. If you introduced this you would have silly situations:

A church which can be hired as a venue for a party/keep fit class/concert may not be hired for a civil wedding ceremony (!) (So you have to stand in the rain for the ceremony but are allowed indoors for the reception?)

People are allowed to have a religious or non-religious ceremony anywhere outdoors but once under a roof only a religious ceremony is allowed in a religious venue and only a non-religious ceremony in a non-religious venue? So we couldn't hold a religious ceremony in a town hall? You are making unnecessary complications here.

It is up to those who administer the building to decide what may go on in there. If the local church is out of action for some reason, would it be ok to hold the ceremony in the local Hindu temple, but not in the town hall? Please drop this one.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In consultation with the couple.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Registration Service cannot do so.  
So the risk assessment must be done by the officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not too restrictive, and as simple as possible.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The organisation that the officiant is working for.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would also be appropriate to add the name of the officiant after the ceremony. Having it on the schedule beforehand would cause difficulties when the officiant has to be reallocated.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As far as I know there is no such presumption. As I understand it there is no such thing as "common law marriage."

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Increased fee for weekend work required.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not have any evidence of this. Through hearsay I understand that there are people who are delaying getting married because they cannot have their mother's name on the marriage register and certificate. I also understand that there are people who want a humanist marriage or an outdoor marriage who are waiting for the law to be changed. I should not think that the numbers are great in either case. I do not expect the change of law to increase the number of people being legally married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In the total costs of a wedding, the cost of having a separate, legally recognised wedding is very little. Many people choose to do this: have a small legal ceremony at a register office and then have their big ceremony in a field, or a foreign country - much easier to arrange than getting permission for a legal marriage in a foreign country.

The easiest way to solve so many of these questions, simply, would be to use the French system where everyone is required to have a small legally recognised wedding at the registration office after the preliminary checking. It need cost little more than the notice of marriage does. They are then free to hold their big special (non-legal) wedding ceremony, entirely to their own taste and beliefs, in whatever building or non-building they want, with no need for regulation at all. The schedule and the responsibility for the legality is entirely within the Registration Service which can operate far more efficiently than by being responsible for outcomes by officiants they have no control over. No officiants have to be sanctioned/controlled/supervised/. No beliefs have to be approved as warranting their own officiant. It would save so much cost and useless administration.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A separate, legally recognised wedding as a preliminary is by far the best way to make savings at the same time as opening up locations for marriage that are as yet undreamed of. Vicars would welcome not having to get involved with legal paperwork and just concentrate on their religious rites. But I expect that the Anglican Church is reluctant to give up its power, and we are going to have to labour under this inefficient sprawling system way beyond my lifetime.

It must be depressing to be a civil servant trying to square these circles while having the easiest solution forbidden.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It is time consuming and costly to send registrars out to approved venues as they do at present. Local councils push the prices of registrar services up far higher than cost in order to cross-subsidise other council budgets which are being squeezed. Weddings are seen as a cash cow. Far more weddings could be conducted, much less expensively, as a small ceremony in the Register office, with a nationally-agreed low fee, as a preliminary to a big non-legal wedding. The couple could then have their big non-legal wedding in the venue of their choice, conducted by the officiant of their choice, and all these rules and regulations would be unnecessary.

The system proposed, where the Registration Service tries to maintain legal standards at a distance while thousands of officiants operate them is administratively unwieldy and therefore expensive and legally much less safe.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Weddings not regulated by government and not requiring registrars would free up the system and make it less costly. This can be done simply by requiring ALL legal marriages to take place as a brief small ceremony in a register office, for a small low fee, after which the couple can have their ceremony wherever they want by whomever they want unfettered by regulations. It separates the legal necessities from the main show. At the moment the two are entangled and this new scheme does nothing to reduce the tangle but spreads it over a wider and even less manageable area, which will require administration and training and will be very expensive to run.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is time consuming and costly to send registrars out to approved venues as at present. Local councils who run the registration services push the prices of registrar services up far higher than cost in order to cross-subsidise other council budgets which are being squeezed. Weddings are seen as a cash cow. This needs change.

However, spreading the registration job across thousands of people who are not employed by the registration service does nothing to streamline the task. Separate the legal preliminaries and the legal ceremony from the main ceremony and control the cost of the legal service. Registrars should carry out the legal work only. Celebrants who conduct weddings are different people and the registration service need have no connection with them at all, or with wedding ceremonies, which can be meaningful in so many ways but need not be legal procedures.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The easiest way to get married in another jurisdiction is to have a small legal ceremony in your local register office in UK and then travel to the other jurisdiction for the big non-legal "celebratory" ceremony. People often do this because it is far easier than going through the various permissions needed in both jurisdictions. People often ask for non-legal "celebratory" ceremonies, having got married legally in another country but wanting to hold a "marriage" ceremony in UK as well. Most people are not aware that it is not a legal ceremony.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't see how this would make it easier. Get married locally in a register office and have a big celebratory ceremony wherever you want.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

This new scheme is going to cost government and local authorities a great deal to (attempt to) control, when they could merely conduct the legal requirements in an office and relinquish control of the celebratory ceremonial part.

Religious and non-religious organisations and independent officiants would be a lot freer without the Registration Service breathing down their necks. Complying with the legal requirements will be costly.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1R-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-17 09:52:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

Independent Celebrant

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicable

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Performed no wedding ceremonies at all during the period 15th of March through to the current day.  
All couples planning to rebook, generally in 2021

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal would result in a far less complicated system

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Every day life now is predominantly lived on line, and I can therefore see no reason why marriages should not be included within this.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that seven days is a very short period of time, unless interviews are able to be conducted on any day of the week, if not 14 days seems to me to be a more reasonable period of time during which to complete formalities.

The only exception to this should be marriages that are held where one of the parties involved is seriously or terminally ill, or there are exceptional circumstances such as close family members who wish to attend but are themselves terminally ill

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Although in principle a remotely conducted interview seems to be a natural progression included within greater reliance on the Internet, I believe that due care should be taken and the possibility of an in person interview needs to be retained with regard to sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This seems to be perfectly acceptable and I can see no reason for making an alteration to this policy.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Wider publication of intention to marriage should be readily available to any people who wish to consult the paperwork, the current regulations whereby notice of intent to Marie are displayed at local register offices is outdated and indeed as the number of offices declines it is more and more difficult for people to attend and view such notices.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the current length of time which I can see no reason to change.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is perfectly sensible as it would thereby enable couples to have an accurate representation of the ceremony, covering eventualities such as last minute unavailability of their chosen officiant

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This could potentially result in unnecessary admin and potentially problems.  
I can see no other reason why a substitution would be required.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current continued devolution between the four countries of the United Kingdom would seem to concur with the statement.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No other comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

A full disclosure policy should apply to all marriage irrespective of where the ceremony is scheduled to take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be a requirement providing full training and ongoing training is given to all clergy in the Anglican church.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes I can see no reason why any other policy should be in place in regard to this statement.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that there should be only difference between registering to marry at a ceremony officiated by the Church of England or church of Wales and any other venue. I therefore think that all weddings should be preceded by the same civil preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should cover all areas

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As a former registrar with nearly 6 years experience and having trained as a celebrant with eight years experience I would expect my qualification to be more than adequate to act as officiant

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing this role is not just open to former registration officers

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No additional view

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Organisations which are currently offering accredited celebrant si training should be included

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No additional comment

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We should maintain the list and also monitor training and standards

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why celebrants who are members of accredited organisations, and who have undertaken recognised training should not be included.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is absolutely the requirement as there are currently too many celebrants who have done no training whatsoever.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The demands of individual Weddings vary enormously including distance travelled and content. This can mean that some weddings are relatively simple and straightforward to organise whereas others incur a great deal more work and time and should therefore be charged for accordingly.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clarity about the role of individuals permitted to conduct a Weddings should be paramount

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However individual ceremonies need to be just that. Guidance on words and phrases to be used would be helpful, but an experienced celebrant should be able to lead a ceremony using at all times appropriate language and content.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once officiant pass their normal retirement date it is my view that they should be monitored every two years to ensure that they are still physically and mentally able to deliver a ceremony to the required standard. This view stems from having worked as a registrar with several colleagues who were over the age of 70 and had become less mobile and we are sometimes out of touch with the demands and requests of modern couples.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Current regulations prevent couples from choosing music as well as words that they might wish to include, with any religious connotations. This is limiting and does not make for full freedom of choice when preparing our wedding ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Music with religious connotations, selected text from books of all faiths

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Simplification to this process is critical and the more streamlined the regulations the easier it will be for everyone to understand the process.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are occasions when couples would prefer being able to completely ensure who attends their wedding and who does not.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible to hold a ceremony anywhere a couple find meaningful to them

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would make it easier for couples to decide where to marry and also to find out basic information before deciding especially on accessibility for them and their guests

Please share your views below:

GRO and/or Local Authority should undertake regular inspections for renewal

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Including both parents full names is not only important to the couple but essential for tracing ancestry and local history. This is particularly important as the number of single parent and same-sex couples who have children Via surrogate mothers Increases.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that accuracy and witnesses are maintained

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This may have an impact on forced marriage

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible for a couple to marry quickly and with minimal hassle under the above circumstances

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would make it difficult for people with little or no mobility to arrange a wedding easily

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Removing this level, of admin can only speed up the process for couples and reduce admin

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can see no reason why it should not allow this flexibility



Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For the same reason as above

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The recent public health crisis as a result of Covid 19 has decimated weddings. Without changes to the current legislation I cannot see how couples are going to be able to plan a wedding without more flexibility on time date and place. With a limited number of venues licensed for civil ceremonies there is little space in 2021 for these couples to roll their wedding arrangement forward. Many of these weddings could have taken place remotely if couples had been allowed and willing.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Judging by the number of people who travel abroad to hold their wedding and looking at the massive increase (until recently) in the popularity of cruises, yes I would say that the demand is there.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be monitored

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no fee for those who are housebound as a result of illness otherwise yes really

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

We should not be making financial gain out of people who are unwell or terminally ill

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would appear to be as the situation is now but presently the fees are too variable between local authorities and need to be standardised

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be based on a national table of charges

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Acceptable to include a fee but not at the current level

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Standard costs for this should be national and reviewed at least every two years

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Flexibility should be retained at all cost

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At the moment the current system is too complicated and people are not aware of potential for Marion when they are housebound or terminally ill

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no charge

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe that people have an impression of how expensive it can be to get married legally children and where the process to be simplified and the choice wide and they would probably be an increase in the number of couples choosing to marry.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People require flexibility and choice. Therefore a legal ceremony which could be held within an office at minimal cost to ensure that the legal marriage contract is fulfilled is the best way forward. This would therefore open up the chance of having ceremonies at venues of their own choice, it would give people control over the cost of weddings especially if they are using outside providers such as venues and caterers, currently the wedding market is a very high charging sector and where couples are selecting some of the licensed venues to hold weddings the charges incurred can be quite substantial and are beyond the average budget.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Although I have no specific examples or evidence to share cost reduction and increase enjoys should be key in any proposed change the legislation

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There is currently a one-off charge applicable to register a venue as an approved and licensed premises . If this were reduced more smaller venues and a greater variety of environments would perhaps choose to offer this well.

Currently they are losing out on the potential enjoyed by those who have chosen to register.

Extending the number of premises at which a wedding can take place would, by very nature, mean that far greater numbers of station offices or assistance would be required. It would therefore be essential that the role of conducting a legal wedding ceremony would have to be extended to include other suitable professional individuals.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

As a result of the last six months, many hospitality venues have been enormously hit by both lockdown and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

There are many people who were intending to marry who have yet to make plans for a re-organised ceremony and venue.

Offering people more of a choice would not only support these businesses but also enable people to hold their ceremonies at a time of year to suit them for example.

I have heard of many couples who is weddings were cancelled at the height of the wedding season in 2020 2 when approaching the venue for a similar date in 2021 have been disappointed because many couples choose to plan up to 2 years ahead and most summer dates for 2021 at key registered venues have already been booked.

Being able to look at other venues and make different plans would not only enable people who are still waiting to marry but also those who are considering marriage but do not want to wait A long period.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My experience as a registrar showed me that local authorities were making a great deal of money out of registration services, in particular weddings, and yet the hourly remuneration paid to registrars in no way reflected this. This is why I left the registration service and opted to offer couples additional

ceremonies designed around their needs and preferences.

However in the county in which I was working should they wish to get married at the local register office on a Saturday afternoon in the summer, even with just six people attending that ceremony, the fee for this is almost £400 which I regard as being an excessive amount.

Currently appointments can be extremely difficult to acquire if you do not book far in advance.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Undoubtedly there will be less administration required but on the downside there will be less of an income as a time when local authorities are needing to find additional ways of increasing revenue to cover other areas of need.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This is an area which requires greater central control especially when people are opting to travel to England and Wales to get married from another area or indeed another country.

It is not an area where corners should be cut.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please see above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unable to comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unable to comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Unable to comment

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD76-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-17 22:52:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not required

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N.A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n.A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be able to marry in any part of England or Wales. Sometimes due to health reasons couples may not have the 7 days available to them.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do think that to prevent illegal marriage that an interview should still take place.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think the recent COVID-19 has shown us all that there are many ways to adapt. Ensuring that all procedures are followed. This would make processes more efficient and cost effective.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes I think this should still be able to happen as there maybe a location that is meaningful to a couple.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Easier and effective way to view

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keeps it all organised with no loose ends. Easy to keep on top of

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This keeps it official and prevents errors. It makes people responsible.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will ensure the smooth running of the day without any problems for the couple

Please share your views below:

I think it is always good to have a back up plan as so many unexpected situations can arise.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinions on this

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published in the same way as other notices

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes couples should be treated in the same way as this could be a loop hole in the documentation process

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Not required unless other marriages by celebrants require the same method. All should be the same to streamline. Then no case of error or confusion

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Streamline so no room for errors or illegal marriages.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is what they did previously so why change. As a celebrant we could not officiate at a registry office

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be guidance on the legality part of the ceremony only

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be guidance here, so celebrants know when to accept bookings depending on length of time to approve

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This ensures commitment from officiants

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The idea is to allow couples to marry in a location that id special for them

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Sure

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No I see no problems

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If time allows. There should be a special order in place for those with less time and unable to be interviewed

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about number 3 in a remote situation

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No Opinion

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No Opinion

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe that marriages will increase as couples will be able to have their wedding in the location that means the most to them that is different from the current options. There are many couple who currently have a small registry office wedding followed by a larger celebrant led ceremony at a later date. It would mean that the couples would now be officially married at the larger event.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7Q-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-19 11:11:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be preparing for their marriage in a settled way

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provides more flexibility

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a reasonable amount of time to be taken seriously

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews should usually be required.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This may be reasonable as long as the place outside England and Wales is a trusted place.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a modern way of making the notice available

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that Anglican preliminaries continue to be recognised.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an institution of God, so it makes complete sense for church leaders to naturally be able to officiate.

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem to be the point of officiating at a wedding

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The words of the wedding vows should remain formalised, so it is obvious to anyone in any context that a wedding has taken place.

The expression of no impediment seems important at the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Certain words should be retained for the formation of wedding vows.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why a religious service should not be allowed at a civil wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like an important safeguard for ensuring the marriage is valid

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Having weddings in some locations may trivialise marriage.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like an important part of the ceremony

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

No

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not all churches have their own building, so some Christians may want to have a "religious" wedding in some "non-religious" venue

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremonies should take place in sensible locations on land, other marriage risks becoming trivialised.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As previously

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think the current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married. Marriage is a solemn vow, so it should not be trivialised.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDTQ-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-20 20:48:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage, which took place abroad, is recognised by UK law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage, which took place abroad, is recognised by UK law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage, which took place abroad, is recognised by UK law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage, which took place abroad, is recognised by UK law

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We wanted an informal but legally binding ceremony, so opted to get married by a waterfall - something we couldn't do in this country, so got married in Iceland where their marriage laws allow for weddings anywhere, not just indoors or within a structure.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A, thankfully we got married last October

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In order to get married in Iceland they had similar timescales but were less strict about this advising we could visit their office on the morning of the wedding if we liked (of course we did it by the book, but nice of them to offer and be flexible)

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anything to make the process easier, whyever not?

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Regards to notice of marriage period, if these go online, I think seven days could be sufficient.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think remote interviews are a great way of working and agree that at times it may be necessary to invite applicants to in-person interviews if they have concerns.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think it should be made as easy and accessible as possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I was baffled as to why our marriage notice was displayed in a Council building in town we have no connection to in the north of our county - who's going to see it to object to it?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic and weddings being postponed at short notice, I think this would be most welcome.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think the officiant needs to be named. As long as the ceremony is officiated by a qualified officiant, is it really necessary to specify prior to the ceremony - what if they're sick and the substitute needs to self-isolate? More unnecessary paperwork.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think the officiant needs to be named. As long as the ceremony is officiated by a qualified officiant, is it really necessary to specify prior to the ceremony - what if they're sick and the substitute needs to self-isolate? More unnecessary paperwork

Please share your views below:

I don't think the officiant needs to be named. As long as the ceremony is officiated by a qualified officiant, is it really necessary to specify prior to the ceremony - what if they're sick and the substitute needs to self-isolate? More unnecessary paperwork

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage notice in England was acceptable in Iceland - why not accept marriage notices from other countries, especially from countries within our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the bann is illegible, yes. If legible, no.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think the banns ought to be published where the bride or groom usually reside - so people who know them are given notice.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. If this has already been completed by the registry office, no. However for purpose of checking identification, yes. 2. Yes.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Civil preliminaries will be conducted by properly trained persons who are able to spot sham or forced marriages.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should gain consent, ensure requirements met and documents signed.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it should be made easier for more people to officiate at different kinds of weddings in order to cover the workload in case of pandemic and shortages of staff for church weddings

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers are trained to do all aspects of the role and should be able to manage single-handed once trained

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I hope this would allow them to cross over and perform civil ceremonies if possible?

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe some officiants are self-employed - I would like to see it possible for the bride & groom to nominate their own suitably qualified officiant

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not religious so don't know

Please share your views below:

.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think whatever people's beliefs, it should be made as easy as possible to marry.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if found to be conducting sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If that organisation is nominating the officiant, they should be responsible for ensuring they are fit & proper

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, should be adult and well-trained

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think officiants should be able to officiate at any kind of service. If they have knowledge and respectful of beliefs, why not officiate both kinds?

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

While I agree they 'should', I feel that the private lives of officiants is their own business.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this would be helpful to have officiants all 'singing from the same hymn sheet'

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If that organisation is nominating the officiant, they should be responsible for ensuring they are fit & proper and should be able to de-authorise the officiant

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree should not be required to express that there is no impediment to their marrying each other as this is addressed during the preliminaries

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree there should be no special rules except where religious groups impose their own.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree - say the couple themselves are not religious but they wish to honour a cherished, possibly older family member by singing their favourite hymn - whyever not?

Please share your views below:

Music & hymns, symbols - some religious symbols can be interpreted by different people in many different ways.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure what this means.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should be a private event.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We got married in front of a waterfall in Iceland but wouldn't it be great to be wed in the beautiful English countryside?

Please share your views below:

So long as the required people can attend/witness safely.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe weddings should be a private event for friends and family only - I don't see why they should be publicly accessible.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe the law should prohibit any type of wedding in any type of venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, it should be safe and dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Please share your views below:

Business locations to register with General Register Office. Locations not part of a business not pre-approved but can be agreed by the officiant if deemed safe and dignified.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe all of these should be optional - parties may not wish to have any parent listed

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our Icelandic marriage certificate was available in Icelandic only or English only. Even if they didn't offer it to us in English, we could always have it translated, as could Welsh speakers if they chose to have Welsh-only and needed it translating later.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree we should reduce paper-based registration and go paperless to reduce paper record storage and reduce the need for office-based working, particularly in light of the pandemic and requiring to work from home more.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Mistakes happen and witnesses may be unintentionally absent (my dad got lost on his way to our waterfall wedding). In Icelandic preliminaries, our witnesses signed our marriage notice and were not required to attend the ceremony (they did of course, but they didn't need to).

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not all couples cohabit.

Other

Please expand on your answer:



I didn't realise there was a presumption that a couple is married if they have cohabited for a long period of time and are believed to be married by friends and family.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consent is gained prior to ceremony taking place.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed. For a person to purport to be an officiant and mislead the couple about their status rendering the ceremony potentially void should be an offence and the person misleading the couple should be fined the total cost of the ceremony.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience with this but understand that persons who lack mental capacity would be required to have a mental capacity assessment and best interests decision made based on their current understanding and previously documented wishes. Of course, where persons are detained or are in hospital and it is possible to safely facilitate a wedding ceremony this should be accommodated where possible.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I propose that parties with a terminal illness should be required to give a shorter period of notice, accompanied by a doctor's letter confirming terminal diagnosis & prognosis/Fast Track/End of Life paperwork.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds more streamlined and less complex?

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed. As parties with a terminal illness could become too unwell to marry on a particular date and this could be postponed on multiple occasions, this is a great solution.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where parties are detained or housebound, this could cause delays for example, if the prison or hospital is understaffed and unable to safely facilitate the wedding ceremony it may need to be postponed, this is also a great solution.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, this is a fantastic solution.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I love these proposals!! Most definitely, yes! This would have benefited many couples who had their weddings cancelled during the coronavirus pandemic. I hope these proposals can be implemented soon!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How great would it be to get married on a yacht off the English coast?! Yes please!

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How amazing?! Yes.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, any.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What if the ship breaks down? What if they miss the ship and have to catch the next boat?

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I additionally propose that independent officiants may also officiate with the desk officers or authorised ship's crew as an additional witness if the couple wishes to appoint their own officiant (a qualified and registered friend, for example).

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I additionally propose that independent officiants may also officiate with the desk officers or authorised ship's crew as an additional witness if the couple wishes to appoint their own officiant (a qualified and registered friend, for example).

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am certain there would be demand for non-religious cruise ship weddings en route to exotic destinations - if this was an option when we got married, we would have most definitely considered it!

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Should be compassionate for terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is expected that whether terminally ill or not there would be a fee, however a below cost would be appropriate and compassionate.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am unsure that the current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married - except in the circumstance of persons detained in prison or hospital or are terminally ill.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I believe that in the current situation, that the cheapest way to marry is usually at a registry office is off-putting. Couples may put-off getting married until they can afford a wedding they feel is acceptable to their family and peers. Under these proposals weddings could in theory become cheaper as they could legally take place in couple's own homes and gardens, for example.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I believe that in the current situation, that the cheapest way to marry is usually at a registry office is off-putting. Couples may put-off getting married until they can afford a wedding they feel is acceptable to their family and peers. Under these proposals weddings could in theory become cheaper as they could legally take place in couple's own homes and gardens, for example.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe the proposed scheme would benefit businesses, creating increased opportunities due to increased demand.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Remote weddings would benefit local authorities by not requiring staff to travel to weddings.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law impacts on both residents of England and Wales; and on overseas couples wishing to have a destination wedding in England and Wales; because the current law is too restrictive and unaccommodating. Both would rather marry somewhere other than England and Wales - as we did in Iceland.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The proposed scheme would benefit both residents of England and Wales; and overseas couples wishing to have a destination wedding in England and Wales; because the scheme makes it much simpler and less restrictive.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cruise ships could offer cruise weddings in international waters en route to exotic destinations and would be a great benefit to the tourism industry.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I believe the proposals would reduce costs in most areas.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDTA-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-20 21:25:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I would want contact details and address to not be made public

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am single

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have not been to any, nor has anyone I know of had one cancelled, delayed or performed

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public act of making a contract. to be in the presence of witnesses known to the individuals involved in making that contract. To 'run away' to an area where they are not known decreases the value of the public contract.

In addition, it significantly increases the risk of one of the two people involved being made to take part against their own wish or a person who needs protection being seduced into the contract away from family or friends who can advise them to wait.

Marriage is PUBLIC and requires the involvement of a relevant network ( family, friends, etc. ). It is vital it takes place in the home area of one of the couple, traditionally the Bride. I am actually quite shocked to read it only needs to be 7 days residency.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage Preparation should become part of the recommended route to marriage; the interview should be with both parties. The means of initial contact should, however, be able to include modern methods

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least a month..

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, in person is vital.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, no change

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would be good if the named officiant was then going to worm with the couple to prepare them for marriage.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Providing that the naming of the original officiant was for a valid reason as suggested above and not just an admin exercise, then thus makes sense

Please share your views below:

It needs to be someone who has worked with the couple in preparation for the marriage

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to change this, it has worked well and it would be wrong not to let UK churches continue to work together

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The church is the gathering of the people, not the building. Where the parish congregation meets the service is valid. Whilst on the face of it the law here is archaic, there are other things which could stop a congregation meeting in the church building and this ruling should perhaps expand to include them (e.g. damage to structure by theft from roof, general structural issues, heating breakdown, etc.)

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

NO, Two people, two families, two congregations, two parishes are being brought together in a public act to make a contract. It is vital this is not altered.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1, yes, have the power to but not be required to

2, yes, definitely... or at least each of the two should meet with one of the parish vicars and the two vicars should confer if not possible for the one doing the marriage service to meet the person coming from elsewhere separate to the local person

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, but can be with either of the parish vicars as above

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Church is Established, marriage comes from the church to the nation, not vice versa

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THE VICAR remains included as an officiant

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Does that mean that weddings in non Anglican churches would not be legally valid? In which case I disagree

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it ain't broke don't fix it

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That sounds like a religion to me. A belief system, secular or otherwise, is a religion.

Please share your views below:

Any group which has a regular ( at least monthly) gathering of people for fellowship, teaching, inspirational talks or reflection and to which one or both of those to be married regularly attend.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

That is actually dangerous.

We have seen in last 20 years how 'public policy or morality' has changed significantly on the issue of marriage and other things.

The danger is that those holding views which were previously in line with public policy but which now are not become proscribed.

There needs to be safeguards against that happening

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as in all vicars. Similar for 'all mosque leaders' etc.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For instance. the C of E does not need to be part of that.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be greater oversight than that. Officiants must be part of an organisation with accountability, not just on a list.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In general yes, but they should also receive remuneration for their time; couples should not get a wedding for nothing. It would be devalued if it was without cost and only the 'party' afterwards cost money

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No independent officiants

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Providing that does not dictate parts of the rubric of a religious ceremony to be no longer allowed, or imposes wording on a service which a group might not. e comfortable with

Again, I do not see that the GRO needs to be involved in sending guidance to the C of E. The other way round might be helpful as the C of E has been conducting weddings for much longer than the GRO has existed.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If there ends up being a dispute about the rightness of the officiant between the nominating organisation and the GRO then there needs to be a way of mediating it.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No to independent officiants

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

C of E clergy have to retire at 70, that would seem to be a good line to draw for all

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but see previous answers

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1b is vital part of service in front of witnesses

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It can't become an 'anything goes' event. It should follow one of several formularies.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The bit in brackets needs to be set in legal stone to protect those groups from pressure to change.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible to have readings from Bible (etc.) or a hymn or prayer as part of the items chosen by the couple - though I also wonder if they might be advised tk gave a church wedding if they request a lot of the religious parts

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Are you suggesting banning people from a church blessing on their marriage?  
Even if not that, the current system is fine.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is a PUBLIC act of making a contract. To change that nullifies marriage. You might as well say the whole thing is a waste of time.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is vital that there remains a sacredness to weddings (even secular ones, perhaps the word specialness might be used but it is not strong enough). You can't allow weddings on roller-coasters or where witnesses are not present, for instance. Don't make a mockery of marriage.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Outdoors can be a special place, but what happens when it rains? If a particular place is licensed for the wedding that is fine but it can't just be moved at the last minute.

In homes is okay, providing there is good reason (a very sick partner perhaps) or as part of a ceremony (as per Hinduism).

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public ceremony, contract made in public, see previous answers

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You cannot use a church for a service that does not involve God, and whilst you could use a hotel for a religious service as God is everywhere it makes sense to even things out so that the rule works both ways.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be 'set venues'.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I am against any and every occasion being used, the allowed venues should be under the oversight of the organisation responsible (church, Local Authority, etc)

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should be appropriate and registered.

Please share your views below:

The Church/religious denomination for religious weddings and the Local Council for others.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Presumably this is a matter for Wales, and therefore I do not feel able to comment.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A paper certificate should always be provided, other forms are fine in addition

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1/ I agree with this

2/and3/ make the process of marriage absurd. It needs to be a contract (= signing it) made in public (=witnesses)

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That would be a sham marriage. The purpose of marriage is to bring together to make one, for a man to leave his father and mother and be united with his wife (and v.v.). You cannot be married if you are not together.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a contract made in public

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a sensible time period

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problems with current law that I am aware of

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing there is no delay in getting to the person for the interview

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current system works well

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For both 65 and 66 the special case implies an urgent action. If it is not urgent it is not a special case.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1/ Yes

2-4 No, need to be physically present and with witnesses

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should take place as close as possible to the home of one of the two being married, so that there is no impediment to family and friends being in attendance to witness.

As far as possible couples should be strongly dissuaded from siting the ceremony where it is expensive or difficult for witnesses to attend.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, see above

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

But, if you proceeded with such a system then yes, the ship should be named as would a church or registry office

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

...but if you proceed with this then it should be the ship chaplain or the captain only

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No, unless.... see above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I do not know of anyone who would want this

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Equality is the buzz word isn't it?

Surely someone can work out how much the average wedding costs (some more because of things like this) and set a rate which matches that for all people.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Mainly because my previous answers indicate that I do not believe unusual places should be used for weddings

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why would you need a pre-approval process for a regular venue?

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Do not use unregistered venues

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No change

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The AVERAGE cost for all weddings, as suggested above, will cover this.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

The average cost of a wedding would cover this

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with independent officiants

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:



The current situation perhaps makes marriage too easy. There should be a marriage prep course for all couples to help them fully to understand the purpose of a lifetime contractual commitment. Marriage should not be made even easier.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Compared with the expenditure most couples make on reception party and honeymoon, the cost of the actual marriage ceremony is not great.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not like most of your proposals, as indicated above

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I am not in favour of this, see previous answers

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no evidence to be able to comment on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More admin and confusion will come from this

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is not always straightforward but it is better than your new proposals

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above, marriage would be devalued.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again, I have no evidence to be able to comment on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No clear views on this

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7J-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-21 16:21:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

TO PROTECT OUR RIGHTS AND THOSE OF OUR CHILDREN

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

WE SPENT THE ENTIRE TIME DEFENDING AN ACTION TAKEN BY MY FATHER'S ABUSIVE "WIFE" (THE MARRIAGE WAS FORCED) UNDER INHERITANCE ACT AFTER SHE GAVE AWAY HER ASSETS, AND THOSE SHE FORCED MY FATHER TO GIVE TO HER) AND CLAIMED SHE WAS LIVING HAND TO MOUTH.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

WELL WE MET MY FATHER'S PREDATORY WIFE AT THE WEDDING.

7 DAY'S NOTICE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO STOP IT.

PUT IT ONLINE AND MAKE IT AT LEAST A MONTH

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

YES. TO STOP PREDATORS YOU MUST ENABLE MORE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT THE MARRIAGE AND FOR LONGER.

PREDATORY MARRIAGE AFFECTS THOUSANDS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A MONTH WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ENSURE THE MARRIAGE IS NOT BEING FORCED. THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE MINIMAL IF THE MARRIAGE IS NOT PREDATORY, BUT ONCE A PREDATOR MARRIES A VICTIM, THE LAW PROTECTS THE PREDATOR NOT THE VICTIM. THE FORCED MARRIAGE ACT IS USELESS FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA, AND MOST PREDATORS CHOOSE AN ELDERLY PERSON WITH DEMENTIA TO MANIPULATE THEM.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

IN DAD'S CASE, HE WAS TOO FRIGHTENED OF HIS ABUSER TO STAND UP TO HER. I SUPPORT REMOTE INTERVIEWS WHERE HIS FAMILY COULD BE PRESENT. I ALSO WANT REDRESS IF THE MARRIAGE IS FRAUDULENT OR PREDATORY. CURRENTLY THERE IS NO REDRESS AT ALL.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

MARRIAGE ON CRUISES IS A PREDATORS DREAM!!!! WE WERE TOLD BY THE BANK WHICH THE PREDATOR HAD CONVINCED TO ADD HER NAME TO DAD'S ACCOUNT THAT THEY MAY HAVE GONE ABROAD TO MARRY. NO THEY DIDN'T. SHE IS A GOOD LIAR AND SHAMELESS FRAUDSTER.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

AN EASILY ACCESSED WEBSITE. I ALSO WANT A CHANGE IN THE LAW ENABLING THOSE WITH POWERS OF ATTORNEY TO WARN THE REGISTRY OF THE DONOR'S MENTAL CAPACITY STATUS.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IDEALLY IT SHOULD TAKE 12 MONTHS FOR A MARRIAGE TO BE SOLEMNISED FROM FIRST NOTICE. TIME IS THE ENEMY OF THE PREDATOR

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR FAMILIES TO ALERT A NAMED OFFICIAL OF THEIR SUSPICIONS

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

ANY REGISTRAR NEEDS TO BE TRAINED TO IDENTIFY A POSSIBLE FRAUDULENT MARRIAGE.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

UNLESS THEY ARE PUBLISHED ONLINE FOR LONGER.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THE LAW IS SO OUT OF DATE, NO WONDER THERE ARE SO MANY FRAUDULENT MARRIAGES

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

THEY MUST BE PUBLISHED ONLINE TO PREVENT FRAUDULENT MARRIAGE

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

YES AND YES.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

YES THEY SHOULD AND IN THE CASE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE THEY SHOULD REQUEST THEIR OWN FAMILY -ADULT CHILDREN, OR OTHER RELATIVES BE PRESENT

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

CIVIL PRELIMINARIES DID NOT PREVENT A FRAUDSTER AND ABUSER MARRYING MY FATHER. WHAT WOULD HAVE PREVENTED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PUBLISHING IT ONLINE FOR AT LEAST 3 MONTHS, MENTAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS AND SEPARATE INTERVIEWS.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THIS ASSUMES CORRECT TRAINING ON HOW PREDATORS MANIPULATE AND COERCE THEIR VICTIMS.

PREDATORS ARE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THEY MANIPULATE, LIE, COERCE AND APPEAR GENUINE. IN OUR CASE SHE GROOMED THE CHURCH MINISTER.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS THAT THE PERSON OFFICIATING UNDERSTANDS THE CONSEQUENCES OF MARRIAGE AS WELL AS THE COUPLE. WHEN THE LAW PROTECTS THE PREDATOR, NOT THE VICTIM, THE VICTIM IS AT RISK OF ABUSE BECAUSE THE PREDATOR IS INTERESTED IN FINANCIAL REWARDS OF MARRIAGE. IN OUR CASE, SHE DRUGGED HIM TO STOP HIM GETTING HELP. THE ELDERLY CARE TEAM BELIEVED HER AS HIS "WIFE".

THE CONSEQUENCES OF PREDATORY MARRIAGE FOR THE REGISTRAR IS NOTHING. THEY DONT HAVE THE TIME OR SUPPORT FROM GRO TO CHALLENGE EVEN WHEN THEY SUSPECT THINGS ARE NOT RIGHT.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY IF NONE OF THEM IS PROPERLY TRAINED ON SAFEGUARDING AND THE LAW PROTECTS THE PREDATOR.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THEY NEED FULL SAFEGUARDING TRAINING.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

AND THEY SHOULD ENSURE THE OFFICIANTS HAVE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AND HAVE SUPPORT TO STOP A WEDDING IF THEY SUSPECT FRAUD

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

BUT THEY NEED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO STOP A FRAUDULENT OR PREDATORY MARRIAGE

Please share your views below:

THIS IS NOT THE POINT. IF YOU ARE GOING TO RELAX THE RULES AND I AM NOT AGAINST THIS FOR ANY RELIGION OR ORGANISATION YOU MUST HAVE CONCOMITANT SAFEGUARDING FOR ANY WEDDING. YOU MUST HAVE LEGAL REDRESS IF ANY TYPE OF MARRIAGE IS PREDATORY OR FRAUDULENT.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

WITH APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDING IN PLACE AND APPROPRIATE LEGAL REDRESS FOR PREDATORY MARRIAGE

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

IF THE ORGANISATION BREACHES CURRENT LAW OR PUBLIC MORALS THEN IT SHOULD BE EXCLUDED. APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDING MUST BE A FACTOR AND LACK OF IT SHOULD EXCLUDE THAT ORGANISATION FROM OFFICIATING ANY WEDDING.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE GOOD ONLY IF PROPER SAFEGUARDING WAS IN PLACE AND PROPER LEGAL REDRESS AVAILABLE IF THE MARRIAGE IS FRAUDULENT.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I AGREE. HOWEVER, I FOUND THE GRO TO BE COMPLACENT WHEN I INFORMED THEM OF MY FATHER'S FORCED MARRIAGE. THEIR SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES ARE LAMENTABLE AND THEIR REGISTRARS UNSUPPORTED WHEN THEY RAISE A CONCERN.

IN MARRIAGES OF THE ELDERLY, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT IF THEY CHALLENGE THEY WILL BE ACCUSED OF AGE DISCRIMINATION.

THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO KEEP A LIST OF SERIAL PREDATORS WHO MARRY ELDERLY PEOPLE TIME AFTER TIME FOR FINANCIAL GAIN. SEE JUSTICE FOR JOAN AND NOTE THAT HER 'HUSBAND' MARRIED ANOTHER PERSON'S GRANDMOTHER SHORTLY AFTER JOAN BLASS DIED.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THEY SHOULD HAVE AN ENHANCED DBA CHECK AND FULL SAFEGUARDING TRAINING.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IF YOU NOMINATE, YOU TAKE FULL LEGAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
2. UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES OF MARRIAGE
3. ASK QUESTIONS TO ASSESS MENTAL CAPACITY IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS
4. ASK IF EITHER OR BOTH HAVE POWER OF ATTORNEY AND CHECK OPG REGISTER
5. ASK IF THEIR FAMILIES KNOW ABOUT THE MARRIAGE
- 6.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A BUSINESS OF OFFICIATING BUT BE HELD LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE IF THEY FAIL TO IDENTIFY A FRAUDULENT MARRIAGE.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THEY WILL NEED FULL INSURANCE

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THEY WILL NEED SOME LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THE GRO NEEDS GUIDANCE ITSELF. IT IS STILL ALLOWING FRAUDULENT MARRIAGES DESPITE ELDERLY PEOPLE NOT HAVING FULL CAPACITY. THEY HAVE ONLY RECENTLY ISSUED GUIDANCE ON NOT ACCEPTING A PERSON'S DEemeanour AND EXPRESSION AS EVIDENCE OF CONSENT. MANY PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA SMILE BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING.

MY FATHER CRIED THROUGHOUT HIS MARRIAGE BECAUSE HE WAS BEING FORCED INTO A MARRIAGE. THE REGISTRAR DID NOTHING.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

IF THEY NOMINATE THEY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE NOMINEE

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THE GRO IS IN A MESS ITSELF. HOW CAN THEY JUDGE OTHERS WHEN THEY ARE INCOMPETENT THEMSELVES.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THIS SHOULD INCLUDE THE GRO EMPLOYEES TOO. JOAN BLASS COULDN'T REMEMBER HER DATE OF BIRTH OR ADDRESS IN 2015. THE REGISTRAR WENT AHEAD WITH THE MARRIAGE. JOAN HAD BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH VASCULAR DEMENTIA IN 2010. THEY NOTICED BUT DID NOTHING TO STOP THE MARRIAGE.

THIS IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. I KNOW OF SO MANY OF THESE MOSTLY FROM FRIENDS WITH ELDERLY RELATIVES.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

CONDUCT SHOULD BE A FACTOR, NOT TIME.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

BUT CPD CAN BE EXPENSIVE AND THE QUALITY OF CPD MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

MARRIAGE IS A CONTRACT WITH AT THE MOMENT NO CONSENT WRITTEN OR VERBALLY REQUIRED. HOW CAN THIS BE? CONSENT MUST BE POSITIVELY STATED AND AS WITH ANY FRAUD, CONSENT FRAUDULENTLY OR MADE UNDER DURESS SHOULD BE NULL AND VOID.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

PROVIDED THAT SECRET MARRIAGES ARE INSTANTLY VOIDABLE IF FOUND TO BE FRAUDULENT OR UNDER DURESS. YOUR REVIEW INTO WEDDINGS NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REVIEW OF FORCED, FRAUDULENT OR PREDATORY MARRIAGES

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

ABSOLUTELY AGREE PROVIDED SAFEGUARDING MEASURES ARE IN PLACE AND THESE MARRIAGES CAN BE ANNULLED IF FOUND TO BE FORCED, FRAUDULENT OR PREDATORY

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

RELIGION IS A GOOD THING AND NO ONE SHOULD BE REFUSED ACCESS TO A RELIGIOUS PART.

BUT SAFEGUARDING IS VITALLY IMPORTANT IN ANY WEDDING CEREMONY.

Please share your views below:

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE WORDS FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER AND THE BIBLE INCLUDED IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THESE BOOKS CONTAIN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVER WRITTEN.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

ALSO REPEAL S18 AJA 1982 WHICH REVOKES A WILL ON MARRIAGE  
REPEAL MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT AND INHERITANCE ACT 1975

ALL OF ABOVE ARE OUT DATED AND ARE USED VERY SUCCESSFULLY BY EVERY PREDATOR WHO MARRIED TO FINANCIALLY ABUSE

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

NO THERE IS NO REASON TO DO THIS AND MANY REASONS TO KEEP THIS PROVISION.

IT IS A PREDATOR'S DREAM TO KEEP A SECRET MARRIAGE SECRET

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

YES, ONLY IF THE GOVERNMENT OFFERS REDRESS WHEN THE MARRIAGE IS FOUND TO BE FRAUDULENT OR FORCED.

PREDATORS LIKE SECRECY AND CONTROL.

Please share your views below:

WEDDINGS ARE NOT THE PROBLEM. IT DOESNT MATTER WHERE THEY TAKE PLACE AS LONG AS THERE IS TRANSPARENCY AND FRAUDULENT OR FORCED MARRIAGES CAN BE ANNULLED EASILY.

CURRENTLY NO LAW PROTECTS THE VICTIM OF FORCED MARRIAGE IF THEY HAVE DEMENTIA OR HAVE DIED.

THE PREDATOR IS ENTIRELY PROTECTED BY CURRENT LEGISLATION.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

UNLESS THIS IS A PERSON'S PRIVATE HOME, THERE IS NO REASON FOR THIS.



Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

IT SHOULD NOT BE OF GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN WHERE OR HOW WEDDINGS TAKE PLACE. IT IS OF GOVERNMENT AND EVERYONE'S CONCERN IF A WEDDING IS FRAUDULENT OR FORCED AND THERE IS NO WAY TO ANNUL OR OBTAIN LEGAL REDRESS. IT IS ALSO IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP A PREDATOR CLAIMING AGAINST THE VICTIM'S ESTATE AFTER THE VICTIM'S DEATH.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT PREDATORY MARRIAGE

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

THIS SHOULD BE A MATTER FOR ALL CONCERNED

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

AND THAT THE PARTIES TO THE MARRIAGE ARE SAFE

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THE GRO ARE NOT CURRENTLY ABLE TO PREVENT PREDATORY OR FORCED MARRIAGE. NO CONVICTION HAS EVER BEEN MADE UNDER THE FORCED MARRIAGE ACT BECAUSE THE GRO DOES NOT KEEP RECORDS OF SUFFICIENT DETAIL. HOW DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ASK MORE OF THEM?

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT I HAVE NO PARTICULAR VIEW ON

Please share your views below:

THE CELEBRANT AND POTENTIAL USERS?

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IT SHOULD ALSO REFER TO ATTORNEYS UNDER A POWER OF ATTORNEY

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

ENGLISH AND WELSH OR EACH LANGUAGE ONLY

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THIS IS OPEN TO ABUSE BY THE PREDATOR WHO IN OUR CASE WAS TAKING DOCUMENTS FROM DAD IN HIS SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION TO ADD HER NAME FRAUDULENTLY TO HIS BANK ACCOUNT ETC CLAIMING TO BE HIS "WIFE" BUT WOULD POTENTIALLY IDENTIFY DEMENTIA IF THE SECURITY MEASURES WERE AT A REQUIRED LEVEL.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

PREDATORY MARRIAGE SHOULD RENDER A MARRIAGE VOID

No

Please expand on your answer:

MOST PREDATORS RELY ON PEOPLE NOT KNOWING. WITNESSES ARE ESSENTIAL BUT IN OUR CASE, WE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS A PROFESSIONAL FRAUDSTER SO WE NEEDED A LAW TO MAKE WHAT SHE DID A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

EXPLICIT FREE AND FULL CONSENT IS ESSENTIAL

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

MY FRIEND'S MOTHER LIVED WITH HER FOR 15 YEARS DUE TO FAILING HEALTH INCLUDING DEMENTIA. WHEN SHE DIED, THEY FOUND SHE HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT FOR THE DAY BY A CARER 10 YEARS BEFORE TO MARRY HIM. MY FRIEND DIDN'T KNOW, HER MOTHER DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING THE CARER CHANGED HIS JOB SHORTLY AFTER. THERE WAS NO FURTHER CONTACT AND YET THIS 'MARRIAGE' REVOKED THE PRE EXISTING WILL AND MY FRIEND ALMOST LOST HER HOME TRYING TO FIGHT THIS. THE CARER WAS OVER 30 YEARS YOUNGER THAN HIS "WIFE"

UNTIL PREDATORY MARRIAGE IS DEALT WITH BY LAWS ALLOWING ANNULMENT BEFORE AND AFTER DEATH AND WILLS NOT BEING REVOKED BY MARRIAGE, YOU CANNOT SUGGEST THAT NOT LIVING WITH SOMEONE AFTER MARRIAGE ISN'T NEEDED.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

BY THE TIME WE FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO DAD WE WERE OUT OF TIME.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

FRAUD IS FRAUD

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

IF THE TERMINAL ILLNESS IS DEMENTIA AS WITH MY FATHER THEN MARRIAGE SHOULD BE ANNULLED

PREDATORS LOOK OUT FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS A TERMINAL ILLNESS BECAUSE MARRIAGE REVOKES AN EXISTING WILL AND THEY DONT HAVE TO TOLERATE THEIR VICTIM FOR TOO LONG.

WHEN MY FATHER'S WIFE HAD STOLEN ENOUGH, SHE ARRANGED FOR HIM TO BE PUT IN AN ELDERLY MENTALLY ILL CARE HOME. WE RESCUED HIM AND HE REGAINED CAPACITY BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T DRUG HIM WHEN HE LIVED WITH US.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

AND FURTHER CHECKS ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE THIS VULNERABLE PERSON IS NOT BEING COERCED.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

ARE YOU ABLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT ALLOWING A PREDATOR TO GROOM THE CELEBRANT. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO SAFEGUARDING NOW, SO HOW WOULD THIS WORK?

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

PROVIDED THAT FURTHER CHECKS ARE MADE TO ENSURE THE VULNERABLE PERSON IS NOT BEING COERCED OR PRESSURISED.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

WITH APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDING WHICH IS LACKING CURRENTLY

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

WE PAY OUR TAXES ONLINE, WE CAN USE LAND REGISTRY ONLINE, THIS IS NOT THE PROBLEM, SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE IS THE PROBLEM.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

PRELIMINARY ENQUIRIES MUST BE PROPORTIONATELY HIGH THE MORE REMOTE AND PRIVATE THE PLACE OF MARRIAGE

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

MY FATHER'S PREDATOR WENT ON CRUISES TO FIND THE NEXT VICTIM

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

THE WEDDING PLACE IS NOT PROBLEMATIC, BUT THE CHANCES OF PREDATORS BEING ABLE TO SUCCEED ARE HIGHER IF THE PLACE IS MORE REMOTE

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

NO THE OFFICIANT SHOULD BE NAMED IF THE VESSEL IS

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE PUBLISHED ONLINE LONG BEFORE THE MARRIAGE

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

IT MUST BE CLEAR HOW AN ANNULMENT WOULD BE OBTAINED AND IN WHICH JURISDICTION

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

REGISTRARS NEED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AND NEED SUPPORT TO REFUSE TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE. THIS REFUSAL SHOULD BE SENT TO ALL REGISTRY OFFICES WITH REASONS WHY

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

THE CURRENT LAW ENCOURAGES FINANCIAL ABUSE. IN THAT SENSE IT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO MARRY.

I ACCEPT THAT MARRIAGE IS A GOOD THING FOR MANY ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH CHILDREN. MANY MARRY FOR THAT REASON.

YOUR PROPOSALS WILL INITIALLY ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO MARRY. THEY WILL CERTAINLY BE WELCOMED BY THE PREDATOR UNLESS THE LAW IS BALANCED WITH PROVISIONS TO STOP PREDATORY MARRIAGE, ANNULING SUCH MARRIAGES AND STOPPING MARRIAGE REVOKING EXISTING WILLS. CURRENT LAW IS SO OUT DATED AND SO PROTECTS THE PREDATOR, PARLIAMENT SHOULD ADDRESS THE ISSUES I HAVE RAISED BEFORE RELAXING THE RULES ON MARRIAGE.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

THE TRUE COSTS OF MARRIAGE ARE THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES AFTER MARRIAGE. PREDATORS MARRY VULNERABLE PEOPLE BECAUSE IT IS A LEGAL FORM OF FINANCIAL ABUSE.

FOR MOST MARRIAGES THE COSTS OF ACTUALLY GETTING MARRIED PALE IN COMPARISON TO THE COST OF CATERING ETC.

THE COST TO MY FATHER OF HIS MARRIAGE TO A PREDATOR WAS LOSING HIS ENTIRE LIFE'S SAVINGS, HIS PROPERTY AND HIS LIFE. SHE DRUGGED HIM FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND WHEN HE WAS SAFE SHE GOT CONTACT WITH HIM AND THREATENED TO KILL HIS DAUGHTER WHOM HE THEN LIVED WITH. THIS IS A COST WHICH CANNOT BE COUNTED.

I KNOW OF SO MANY WHO HAVE BEEN SIMILAR VICTIMS. YOU NEED TO HELP TO CHANGE THE LAW.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

YOU CANNOT RELAX THE RULES ON WEDDINGS UNLESS YOU BALANCE THIS RELAXATION WITH LAWS ALLOWING ANNULMENT IF THE MARRIAGE IS FRAUDULENT. FAILURE MEANS A PREDATOR'S CHARTER. IT MEANS FINANCIAL RUIN FOR THE VICTIM AND A FRUSTRATING AND UNSUCCESSFUL FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

AS I WROTE ABOVE, THE REGISTRAR WAS OBLIVIOUS TO MY DAD'S TEARS AND RELUCTANCE TO SAY THE WORDS. SHE MAY AS WELL NOT HAVE BEEN THERE. THE BAPTIST MINISTER WAS LATER FOUND TO HAVE BEEN GROOMED AND LEFT HIS MINISTRY.

NONE OF YOUR REVIEW MAKES SENSE IN THE LIGHT OF LEGISLATION WHICH PROTECTS A PREDATOR AND FAILS TO PROTECT A VICTIM. MY FATHER'S MARRIAGE COST UNDER £1000 INCLUDING CATERING BUT THE REAL COST WAS HIS LIFE SAVINGS AND HIS LIFE. HE DIED WEEKS AFTER THE PREDATOR TOLD HIM SHE WAS PLANNING TO STAB HIS DAUGHTER. I CAN PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. IN OTHER CASES, THE PREDATOR COMMITTED OTHER ABUSES, BUT THE FAMILIES WERE NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

REGISTRATION OFFICERS ARE NOT BEING TRAINED ADEQUATELY TO SAFEGUARD. THEY HAVE LITTLE SUPPORT WHEN THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS AND FEAR BEING ACCUSED OF AGE DISCRIMINATION IF THEY REFUSE A CERTIFICATE.

THE GOVERNMENT MUST ADDRESS THESE ISSUES BEFORE CHANGING THE CURRENT RULES WHICH AT LEAST HAVE A SEMBLANCE OF SCREENING FOR PREDATORS.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

LOCAL AUTHORITIES DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF PREDATORY MARRIAGE AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN A REVIEW ON WEDDINGS

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

PROVIDED SAFEGUARDING MEASURES ARE IN PLACE I SEE NO PROBLEM WITH EITHER. I AM BRITISH MARRIED TO A GERMAN. WE MARRIED IN UK AND RELATIVES TRAVELLED TO US.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

MARITIME LAW IS COMPLEX. SPECIFIC LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CLARIFY AND LINK TO MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT ETC.

MY VIEW IS THAT THE MORE REMOTE PLACES ARE LIKELY TO BE EASIER FOR THE PREDATOR TO BLAG THEIR WAY TO MARRY A VICTIM.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

THE COST TO ALL IF SAFEGUARDING IS INSUFFICIENT (AS NOW) IS THAT THEY WILL LEAVE THEMSELVES OPEN TO LITIGATION.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7H-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-21 22:49:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Middlesex Law Society

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, remote working in general is the future. Remote interviews are convenient, save time, are less stressful for the interviewee and are easily recorded. I would suggest they are a better way, not a worse way, of determining the credibility of a party.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, there is no good reason not to - the process should not be made more difficult.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Births, marriages and deaths are all a matter of public record - displaying notices online simply makes them more accessible.

### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too long.

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary - obtaining an amended schedule adds time and trouble and has no benefit: the identity of the officiant is unimportant.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, in any circumstances.

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Marriage should be made easier, not more difficult. No reasonable purpose is served by this.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

The preliminaries to all weddings should be the same.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only 3 is necessary - ie. the signing of the marriage document. When this has been signed, the parties are married.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

English law pays far too much attention to the wedding ceremony: when and where parties marry is unimportant. What is important is the marriage itself.

There should be a standard marriage contract - including a pre-nuptial agreement - with parties being required to undertake some form of pre-wedding explanation of (i) their practical and (ii) their legal responsibilities once they are married.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Please share your views below:

Yes - see above.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to prevent parties having a religious ceremony after a civil one - it should be up to them.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding is not public - it is the fact that a marriage has taken place that is public.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

English law pays far too much attention to the wedding ceremony: when and where parties marry is unimportant. What is important is the marriage itself.

There should be a standard marriage contract - including a pre-nuptial agreement - with parties being required to undertake some form of pre-wedding explanation of (i) their practical and (ii) their legal responsibilities once they are married.

Please share your views below:

See above.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

English law pays far too much attention to the wedding ceremony: when and where parties marry is unimportant. What is important is the marriage itself.

There should be a standard marriage contract - including a pre-nuptial agreement - with parties being required to undertake some form of pre-wedding explanation of (i) their practical and (ii) their legal responsibilities once they are married.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be entirely up to the parties to be responsible as to whether the location for a wedding is suitable - not what is ultimately a subjective opinion of an officiant (giving rise to the possibility of judicial review by aggrieved parties).

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Responsibility for the dignity of a location should be with the parties themselves - not the State in the guise of an officiant.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes for safety.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unnecessary.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage should be registered in English which can be as well as Welsh.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration is the future.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

3 only - that the officiant was not authorised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1(b)( i) and 2 only.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is better that the parties are married than that they are not.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The quality of memory - and therefore evidence - reduces with time, making it more difficult for a Court to determine the truth. 3 years is a more than reasonable time limit.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Notice yes - interview no - it adds to the stress of a terminally ill party.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The process of marrying should be uniform.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unnecessarily long.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unnecessary.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 yes

3 and 4 no.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Both name/registration of the ship and the name of the officiant.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Discriminates against people who for reasons beyond their control are housebound - this is an appalling suggestion.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Set nationally - local authorities have their own agenda on anything involving money.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

By Government, not local authority.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - the fee should be the same for a housebound person as for a wedding taking place at a register office.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7M-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-22 10:57:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Fiesta Fields

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We have postponed all of our couples to dates next year. We have done this free of charge, despite all the time needed to rearrange all their plans. We have received no government support despite the loss of income this year. Yes this income will be earned next year (if things are back to normal by then)



but we are then limited on the number of bookings we can take from new couples next year so this does equate to a huge loss of income for a small business that supports just a few people it's been hugely disappointing to fall through cracks on government support.

If we cannot have decent guest numbers by next year I am very fearful. I can't imagine people wanting to postpone to another year and will probably just scale down and go ahead with plans in another way, probably then asking for refunds, which the CMA seem to support. All the while insurers aren't paying out and passing the buck to the small suppliers. I dread to think what situation we will be in next year. I have my hopes pinned on rapid testing being easily available, so guests can be tested before joining the wedding, which would mean we don't need to limit guest numbers or social distance.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure, I don't see this as a huge barrier but maybe I am missing something

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I suppose this makes sense.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why it needs to be such a short time. Normally people take time to plan their wedding and the only reason i see it needs to be so short is in the sad case that someone in the couple of immediate family is terminally ill

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

i don't see why not. We've all become accustomed to video chats over the past months

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limits on fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As you are suggesting, it's the officiant that should determine the legality of the ceremony, not the place where the ceremony takes place. It's bizarre this rule has lasted this long.

Please share your views below:

I think any of the above are fine, as long as the ceremony is safe for the couple, officiant and guests. If someone wants to get married at the top of the mountain it would be up to them find an officiant that would happy to do that. Anyone coming up with radical suggestions will need to be prepared for the fact that they might not be able to find someone to legally officiate.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again I think this is antiquated and a wedding should be attended by only those people invited.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think if a couple want a non-religious ceremony then it would be strange for this to take place in a religious venue. You either are religious or you aren't. I don't see any reason that a religious ceremony however should not be able to take place in a beautiful outdoor space.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes makes sense, The officiant is the one that needs to conduct the ceremony. They should feel safe in doing so.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense to have this in place, so couples can book venues with confidence that the officiant is likely to sign off on the location. But not if this is going to be an expensive process as some people make a living out of a small number of weddings a year. We are approx 20, versus some of the bigger venues that will host 3-5 weddings a week throughout the year. A venue should not be penalised for not going down the pre-approval route (if this is at a cost to the venue)

Please share your views below:

Will there be a local office of the General Register Office as I guess it would make sense for a county head to do this. Only problem I foresee is them not being happy to pre-approve a location but an individual officiant being happy to conduct the ceremony there. So there should be no 'black marks' against locations that aren't pre-approved. But the pre-approval would mean that established venues are able to be added to some pre-approved list to make things more efficient for venues, couples and officiants.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

yes, if it's the officiant that makes the ceremony legal they should be able to do this in international waters and on any vessel that is seaworthy and safe.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

no they should have their officiant already 'on board' with the idea (excuse the pun)

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So you're saying a normal officiant can't officiate on a boat? If so I don't agree. If an officiant can be take to all parts of the country, why not the water too?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

i don't see why different rules would apply to the sea.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

not in my line of business of field weddings

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hourly rate plus transport costs

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think so. I only have access to info on a small amount of couples but all our couples either opt for a church service or a registry office ceremony a couple of days before their field wedding. These couples will always have a blessing/ceremony in the field. They generally follow the traditional format of a wedding with guests seated, bride walking down the aisle. Words and vows being spoken, readings and sometimes singing and bride and groom walking back down the aisle together. Everything but the legal element really. I know these couples would love for their field ceremony to be the legal ceremony too.

This would be a cost saving as they wouldn't need to pay for two ceremonies

This would be fantastic for my business as the bookings I have lost in the past to licenced venues could be extra business for us moving forward.

I think this covers my answers up to q87

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Venues such as hotels, barns etc that operate with a licence can be very expensive and really only a consideration for the ceremony and the reception because of this cost.

I know couples who find the surroundings at a registry office very bland and do not lend themselves to their special occasion. These couples have searched other venues with licences to hold their ceremony as an alternative and then to follow that with a reception with us. This never stacks up financially for them so for couples where it's important for them to have their legal ceremony on the day, well those are bookings we lose to other venues.

We do not plan on charging anything for legal ceremonies in our fields if they are allowed, only if i have any admin fees that I will need to recoup.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1W-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-22 23:09:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Never married. This is me:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

Never married. Joint owner of land. Alleged joint tenant with survivorship.

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

None

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I don't want confidentiality. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hardly private

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You tell me if this is a marriage not recognised by law. [REDACTED] in a long term relationship [REDACTED]

I know marriage to be religious and I would never marry because getting married or taking any oath would stop me showing everybody that I am an atheist.

In Scotland solely for matters of the Department of works and Pension the COD description would go some way to satisfy: "Proof of irregular marriage for social security purposes:

If you are claiming social security benefits which require you to be married, or to have been married (for example to claim bereavement benefits), there is a special procedure which you can use to establish that you are, or have been, married by cohabitation with habit and repute.

You should inform the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that you are, or have been, married by cohabitation with habit and repute when you make a claim for the benefit.

An acceptance by the DWP for social security purposes will not entitle you to claim that you are, or have been, married for any other purposes. If you need to establish that you are, or have been, married for any other purpose, you will have to take an action for declarator of marriage, as described above."

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/family/living-together-marriage-and-civil-partnership-s/getting-married-s/#h-proof-of-irregular-marriage>

I constantly find matrimonial society, which I consider representational parliamentary democracy and the law all part of matrimonial, use the never marrieds and cohabitants for social control, jurisdiction and joint and several liability mostly by the route of "5(b)who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife" (Council tax Regulations 1992).

I find this English and Welsh predicament impossible to get out of by law, possibly because the law of Jactitation has been abolished by the law commission (family law act 1986 c. 55Part IIISection 61 ) and I presume that at that point abolished common law marriage as that must have been Jactitations purpose to adjudicate. I am of the opinion that common law marriage should be considered as within the compass of "clandestine marriages" and are but that couples took jurisdiction for themselves through promises of future or present consent. Jactitation gave a Public Jurisdiction to a private dispute.

Law commission working paper Number 34, LCWP34.

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2016/08/No.034-Family-Law-Jactitation-of-Marriage.pdf>

and allegedly: "The defences to the suit are three in number: first, a denial that the assertion was made; second, an admission that the allegation was made but that it is true; third, that the misrepresentation was made but was acquiesced, LCWP34 Para 3. The law appears to have been used until just after the UN declaration of human rights 1948: Schuck v schuck 1950 and Igra v Igra 1951.

[REDACTED] joint tenancy with survivorship followed by beneficial trustees, is being treated as if she has a right of audience at the court without my consent and as if she can answer for one to a dispute as if she is married in a trial without jury, through Enactments like TOLATA s.14. that I hope to defend through TOLATA 4.2) Going at TOLATA 14.3) as a joint tenant with survivorship as in 1890 Partnership act s. 2. This is my view which I accept challenges public jurisdiction.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In common law marriage CLM there is no wedding like yours only words between the two parties "de futuro" and "de presenti" LCWP34 para.5. This paragraph makes the assumption that CLM ended at the Hardwick Act 1754. Jactitation was said to have come over in 1857 for the matrimonial causes Act and courts formed for that: LCWP34 para. 3. The presentation is that marriage was brought over from one jurisdiction but the actuality is that the personnel were brought under the jurisdiction of felony apparently without qualm. A gradual takeover but more a family struggle. This process, if it was a process had been going on back to the reformation: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C13332> with numerous examples that there was no separation between so called civil and ecclesiastical jurisdiction with Numerous parliamentary Statements

I have relied on not being married being recognised by the law, proving that I "might" be an atheist although I do expect that the purer state of Atheism requires one to be born illegitimate such as my offspring. I know that married humanists are not atheists.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
And matrimonial law can dissolve it without any act or decree [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] What this feels like is common law marriage. Is it, your the experts?

I would claim that I did not think that the law would go around saying that there is no such thing as common law marriage and then find it [REDACTED] and then separate it or dissolve it to make me homeless and my family offspring homeless forevermore. Where is your family home.

UN Article 16 (2) says Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. It does not mention the rule of law or legally binding officers writing dispositions and no doubt you will claim that that makes it out side the UN jurisdiction. It would seem to me that Jactitation

sits comfortably with Article 16(2) and that the laws of England and Wales should be more mindful of UN Article 16 3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State. [REDACTED] they went for the family home [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] about the date of separation was based on "Never joined, can't be separated". I could rant further, were we joined in the births register? We were though joint tenants with very importantly the expectation of survivorship.

I see no reason why the law like in para. 46 Stack v Dowden [2007] UKHL 17 would claim that "common law marriage" was a myth but then use words such as relationship and separated in supernatural ways.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it was my understanding that if I ever got married by writ or was seen to take an oath that I could not show/prove to people that I was an atheist. I also think that an oath in front of a judge or Judges particularly odd numbers of them that will not consider split decision as in joint tenancy with survivorship is not an oath because the protagonists should be seen to be united by the four utilities.

The reason has come all the more apparent due to my recent on going experiences and that was I thought I "lived" by the rules of Universal Consent as outlined within the four unities in Blackstones commentaries on joint tenancy with survivorship which were written down just after the The Clandestine marriage Act came into being when there was not much case evidence as to the affect of marriage, presumably including common law marriage or cohabitation and never married on joint tenancy with survivorship in civil law? This act presumably following the the statute of frauds made irregular solemnisation by the clergy a felony guaranteed by Removing the felon for life to America with 14 years hard labour as well.

I "believe" in the consent of JTWS parties to bring property onto the land and that for the unity of interest they both own those properties when on the land and so then need their universal consent for property to leave that land and the the severance or partition of the land to be only available to universal consent and that without it the parties are bound to agree to disagree. What this means is that the courts do not have the power to order sale or force one to give vacant possession from one to the other, primarily because the one jointure cannot bring a dispute without the consent of the other. The courts also have a problem with recognising the individual.: a person who is a trustee within a JTWS. That should be recognised by the 1890 Partnership Act to differentiate to all the other units of partnership like civil ones and newly invented LLPs with whom I find myself in supernatural combat with.

It is the matrimonial solemnisation which gives consent to jurisdiction to the court of power to sell or force injunctions against access to the land . Blaarr blarr.

The one registered officer that officiates over marriage justifies trial without jury. I do not consented to that.

The UN Article 16 is the only article to mention consent 2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Where is trial by jury in that.

That more than 60% of English marriages end in divorce is because the either of the party, the defendant was bound by that consent to the rule of law and the rule which is rule of law without a fundamental right to trial by jury takes every opportunity in the face of the Children of those families affected to demonstrate total authority by having control of trial by jury, over the land which is claimed to belong to the relationships and not the family which it should if the law followed UN Article 16 3). The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

The law has changed family into supernatural. In the matrimonial causes act the children are said to be of the family, as if what?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED]

Being in-prisoned for [REDACTED] without trial by jury for a supernatural offence to which a solution is contrition or purge followed by an appeal without jury, all not within a physical, just jurisdiction of my land or lack of religion. I am currently due for another committal hearing without trial by jury and now presumably not of good character.

I very simply do not want to sell my family home. I find that position extremely easy to defend. My ancestors stood in uniform in the last world war as married men. I would say that they did it to defend the land. One was killed and left his family to defend its self. The country relied on that strength of the

family. This is my family home until I agree otherwise. I know exactly my ground but I have taken inspiration from the abolition of the doctrine of conversion and section 4 of TOLATA with a nod at section 50 of the trustees act 1925. I fantasise that relationship cannot be turned into property or property to be sold for the conversion of relationship into separation.

Take note that the Second World War was not fought so as to make matrimony and its dissolution, a human right. All wars of England were fought over land even if sitting in a aeroplane. I don't think England were represented at Troy.

the courts have put the costs of the case against the sale of the land, in a case that I am fighting against the sale of the land. In what way is that possible? A fait accompli. No lawyer or legal aid can find "merit" pro bono or otherwise. I can only feel that with all the human rights and equalities acts are a matrimonial conspiracy against "never married" and make me question the fundament right of jurisdiction that the country has over me. It seems to me that any code that makes pronouncements about matrimony is a religion. Add to that I am expected to accept without prejudice save to cost letters is another step to far.

Matrimony has become consent to be governed. All these Judges and I suspect the majority of the law commission will be in matrimonial contracts and so biased and will have no problem ignoring the everyday throwaway use of "in a relationship", living together, "is that your partner,", that I am bombarded with yet categorically denied to be common law marriage by the State.

Simple forms ask for statements right from the start of marital status. Yet the rule of law unlike in Scotland claims that there is no such thing as common law marriage or trial by jury for that matter. Unlike in Scotland, how can you keep a straight face?

It seems to me that trial by jury is the only way that the courts in a no such thing as common law marriage jurisdiction could show that they have concern to jurisdiction over "never marrieds" rather than through "domestic abuse" via the family law acts policed in council tax properties.

If a joint tenant damages property on their land it should in my mind still be considered as criminal damage against the other tenants if they so feel and not domestic violence mental or physical to be called such by a force with no obvious jurisdiction over the never married.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Who are you to tell me that common law marriage is not legally binding when I seem to be well and truly bound without it. Being seen to "believe" in oaths. I don't want "meaningful" or personal marriage or wedding. Matrimony should be regarded always as religious, a display of supernatural, either verbally or physically, twoddle. It should not be part of the state, it should not be a human right. Having a family most certainly does not need matrimony or the state and according to UN Article 16 3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State. And you are failing my family by this exercise.

Marriage is not the fundamental unit of jurisdiction. Jurists should seek no jurisdiction from it, like you are doing.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Although I would expect that marriages are suspended I am though living in a house that is rented by a woman who is not the mother of my children. I am very much aware that I will be used as I f living as a husband and wife and so the council tax is being paid accordingly. You tell me, am I married to her. The woman last weekend had a stroke and the form filling to access the welfare state is about to commence. There is paid work in prison. Will I have to declare it?

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That's how common law marriage, CLM, is done, an accusation of residency., but maybe seven days should be related to the average time to achieve conception.

Article 16 2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

"Intending spouses" is a better term than "couples". Couples have a stated history. Spouses is pure intention and purpose all leading to consent to be judged by you who.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I thought you propose to do away with the "notice period" by abolishment. See question 5.  
By notice period do you mean "de futuro" None of this works for the illiterate.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

As soon as they like, like in common law why is any registration or interview needed? Why do they even have to remember when it happened? The anniversary industry? The family is the fundamental unit that you should be concerned about. Everybody is a member of a family no matter how battered.

It is between your consciousness and presumably, love and god, civil or otherwise. I somehow managed to be recognised by your courts to be in along term relationship without any of this seven day residence in place or interview "in person" with all the threats made by the courts against irregular solemnisation such as transportation for life to America with 14 years hard labour and a vague separation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Any sense of separation happened at this other place. In the world we separate and come together daily located on the land. Is that in rem? The Lawyers abuses this reality or actuality with claims that its dissolution.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interview/interview in person. When is an interview an interview? "in the future" de futuro

This is one of my experiences of remote interview. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

and had all my court papers taken from me not to be returned for a week and a half. I was then put into segregation for the night, in this place sometimes known as the [REDACTED] In the morning after the prison doctor had assured me that the machine to be directed at my genitalia used ultra sound and not to concern myself about my age and that my father has prostate cancer. I was X-rayed and only then allowed to go to the hearing with COD without a single note. The COD camera only showed one Judge. I don't know which. The only thing I remember about it was that when they confirmed the sentence of [REDACTED] would stand is that the word contrition was used. You are a religion. I am not your slave.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Only if it's with a jurisdiction that allows foreign land ownership by English and Welsh nationals.

Should I go to the Scottish courts to ask for a certification of my CLM?

"Proof of irregular marriage for social security purposes"

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/family/living-together-marriage-and-civil-partnership-s/getting-married-s/#h-proof-of-irregular-marriage>

"If you are claiming social security benefits which require you to be married, or to have been married (for example to claim bereavement benefits), there is a special procedure which you can use to establish that you are, or have been, married by cohabitation with habit and repute.

You should inform the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that you are, or have been, married by cohabitation with habit and repute when you make a claim for the benefit.

An acceptance by the DWP for social security purposes will not entitle you to claim that you are, or have been, married for any other purposes. If you need to establish that you are, or have been, married for any other purpose, you will have to take an action for declarator of marriage, as described above."

"Proof of irregular marriage"

To prove that you are married by cohabitation with habit and repute, you must bring an action of Declarator of Marriage in the Court of Session. Details of the decree are passed on to the registrar general, who will register the marriage. You will need a solicitor.

The action for Declarator of Marriage can be brought to court by either you or your partner, your children or any person with an interest in proving that

the marriage exists, for example to prove the grounds for actions of aliment or to show inheritance rights. It is possible to bring this action after either or both parties are dead.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You rely on literacy, a supernatural activity according to my parrot.

I find this consultation very duplicitous. Mostly because I am torn between wanting there to be people who are married so that I can tell who most certainly is not married and so possibly an atheist and getting rid of marriage to show that without it the law has no jurisdiction without trial by jury.

Please take All these notices of marriage if not certificates of marriage and dissolution. The only thing that is missing is consent but how can anyone tell?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Get a Scottish opinion

Article 16 2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Does that make it more waiting or less for schedules to make it look like you know what consent is?

Is it a fixed 12 months like at Stonehenge which is what I base my tax year on: 4/April/.. to 5/April/+1.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As said Article 16 you ONLY need: 2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

What has a schedule or what the parties request...to do with ONLY

Does A16 say you need a wedding registration service? As said see [REDACTED]

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unexpectedly The guard should be at the register. The family turn up five or twenty seven years down the line and get told there is no such thing as common law marriage by a wit like you and then you proceeded to allow my family to smash our property to pieces and say it is a civil matter.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

You get to invite what jurisdiction?

Article 16 2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

The couple can only work out that it was with free and full consent years down the line. Most of medieval marriage is about words of consent or future and present because until the council of Trent there was no official concept of weddings mostly because the English population was not expected to be literate in law french or Latin, probably on purpose with the intention to divide and rule.

Pssss when Eve span and Adam delved where we're you gentilmun. Adam and Eve where pronounce husband and wife before Adam bit the apple when they were naked and had no use for a house for Adam to get all husbandy about.

Consultation Question 13:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Isn't that for the Anglicans to gup about? What's a bann? Please just shout it OUT. They were around before the statute of frauds.

Or is it that that will shut off the right to apply to Scotland for Proof of irregular marriage

"To prove that you are married by cohabitation with habit and repute, you must bring an action of Declarator of Marriage in the Court of Session. Details of the decree are passed on to the registrar general, who will register the marriage. You will need a solicitor."

The action for Declarator of Marriage can be brought to court by either you or your partner, your children or any person with an interest in proving that the marriage exists, for example to prove the grounds for actions of aliment or to show inheritance rights. It is possible to bring this action after either or both parties are dead."

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Publish how very un Stoneage.

So you have the jurisdiction to show that the Anglican Church is a government department, under its control and exemption h in the council tax.

This is the Archbishop of Canterbury 1836

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/1836-07-11/debates/c97322cd-6965-4592-a414-5f82fcfd06d5/RegistrationOfBirthsMarriagesAndDeaths>

"Another great objection to the Marriage Bill was, that instead of the parochial divisions which had hitherto prevailed, there was now to be district divisions which would include several churches, so that so far from giving additional security, this alteration would take away that security which the country at present had by the publication of bans in the parish church. It had been said, that under cover of publishing bans all sorts of improper marriages took place. That was a mistake. It was one of the provisions of the Marriage Act, that by publishing bans the parties were not obliged to marry in their own parish. Now there was a sort of fashion in this matter. Some parishes were preferred to others. For instance, the parish of St. Martin and the parish of St. George were favourite parishes, and many marriages took place in them, while, on the contrary, the parish of St. Giles was a most unpopular parish, and nobody married there. This was not done because the parties wished to conceal their marriages, but because they did not like to marry there. In his own parish in the country, in the course of eight years there had been but one marriage. Parties who had been living together without being married, but who were finally driven by their consciences or by other causes to marry, were afraid to expose to their neighbours that they had been living together in their former state of connection, and they would therefore go to some distant parish to be married. Servants also were sometimes afraid of having it known to their masters that they were married, and would, therefore, go to another parish to contract marriage." This is after having said "The Bill for the Registration of Births involved a principle which separated things which always had been united since the establishment of a Christian Church—the naming of the child when it was received into the Church by baptism. There was not one petition which he had received from the clergy which did not insist most anxiously upon that point. The practical effect would be, that when persons had once named their children without going to the church, it would make them careless and indifferent about bringing them to the font. "

There is nobody at the font row now is there, The appeal courts of London think they have the right to stop people calling their daughter Cyanide, why don't you bring those fonts back into civil light, particularly in the country. Just think what it would be for diversification and reinvigorate these ancient buildings in the registration game having your baby baptised from a 12 or 13 century font in the church you married in. You can pretend to be related to the past. Thing is now you would be worried the water was poisoned. But then the law allows sham marriages in the hundreds before it notices race. All British marriages in England are pretty grotty ain't they. What's the tariff, three? No marriage is a sham even if a Nigerian is involved. "Weddings" are arguments of de futuro and praesenti and "weds" are probably gifts of property to prove the proposal is not supernatural.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes nothing for the Anglicans, not a sacrament to explain, get out the common pray book.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Only if they can read.

But then you would be making canon jurisdiction subject to "civil", which was somehow got in 1754 and have now turned in 1950 The Chinese Communism into a matrimonial Jurisdiction and all that that entails in the ownership of apartments.

2. Can the anglicans call a marriage common law? Let us ask by phone.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Thanks for the invite oh worshipful commissioners. Intended spouses. [REDACTED] it just needed one trustee [REDACTED] down the line to approach a solicitor and seek an order to sell under an act of Parliament that was brought in for married people by married people which married people then used years later to torture non married families without any regard to Article 16 3) UN.

How will the declaration recorded be certain the people are from the same intended spouses, get their fingerprints and a mouth swab?

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Preceded are all Ecclesiastical The prisons have combined everybody including civil contemptuous into one common service, they have even got pagans. This time in I will bring in the problem of the never marrieds. These clergy seem to be under the civil jurisdiction, combine them by some statute call it The all the beliefs in one matrimonial Ancient human rights jurisdiction Act (for matters of the definitions amend the Partnership act 1890 s.2 so as not to be confused with joint tenants and partnerships for profit or LLPs).

If you stick to "wed" being a gift like a gold ring which is designed not to rot, a preceding preliminary would be the purchase of the ring.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

"a legal duty" bound by transportation for life to America with 14 years hard labour.

1. No officiant required or 2. Or ONLY a jury of 12 is required if this is about the law gaining jurisdiction.

1. Article 16 2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Does not need officiants just the free and full consent but really

Article 16 3) The FAMILY IS the natural and FUNDAMENTAL group UNIT OF SOCIETY and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

There is no family until there are children. Is there?

Where's the never married protection? Matrimonial society in England has taken over the state and family.

The family is the fundamental unit not marriage and the "family" is expected to be bigger than two married people with "children of the family", [REDACTED] now supernatural [REDACTED] and able to gain and lose members naturally, like going off and buying a house elsewhere in their name, without stopping being a family.. in a family home which is really a seat in a welfare state.

Obviously there is the opinion of baroness Margret Thatcher that societies don't exist but I would say that she was part of married society. I would say her families values are based on her baroness title which was based at a place Kesteven and the value is the tangible hereditary titles that her offspring enjoy.. The tile was given by one officer and this is the consent to be judged by the odd officer rather than by split decision and universal consent that would result from an Evan number of officers.

Her marriage was also given to her by one officer and the importance was that it was the consent that she gave to accept trial by one judge and not consider Trials by Jury as the better way to gain acceptance of jurisdiction in the community.

I think that common law marriage should be recognised but not by the law. Two [REDACTED] judges in the current system said [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] That I would say it is a legal disposition found commonly in law. Is it irregular solemnisation and is the disposition a decree absolute as they found that the sentence stood? An order to sell property belonging to a marriage does not rely on CPR and a general catch all in TOLATA that a singular trustees can apply to a court for an order. The matrimonial causes act has its own section on sale of property and the power(procedures) of the court still requires decrees of divorce. An order to sell a family home of never marrieds is an order against the family. The CPR is a procedure.

2. For the device of argument A jury of 12. The jury might comprise of unmarried friends as well as of married people like their parents. Have witness along and start the conspicuous consumption. I would suggest that the inclusion of the unmarried would be a promotion for marriage and possibly a hypocrisy if they themselves did not marry. You would find me in the audience next to the provender.

More importantly they all might not accept trial without jury as matrimonial society does, primarily because it accepts its' primordial position from a single officer of consent.

[REDACTED] there are no courts within the boundary of my authorising authority. As such there is very little legal acumen in the area. There was absolutely no interest [REDACTED] The Trial was run by not much more than a solicitor who wore a

noticeable wedding ring who took offence when I wasted [REDACTED] by complaining that all the judges were married. The appeal courts are even more remote and more married if that is possible. They are married to the consent that one officiant is sufficient. COD seemed to me to be a lunch party.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What's civil about a wed-ding?

Article 16 2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

All ceremonies are religious because by participating in them you are displaying belief in the supernatural. The obvious supernatural is the officiants "position" but just the positioning of the participants is supernatural. How can one join two. Look you can't see the join. Magic. Even observing wearing rings you have to go through a lot of ageism, sexism, racism to work out who is claiming to be with whom. magic in action.

Our representational democratic state by legislating matrimony is a religion. That that has been reinforced now by civil partnership and the Equalities Act 2010 does not hide the fact that the state has always been a religion even prior to things like the 1754 clandestine marriage act and as English and Welsh society is matrimonial history will continue to be rewritten for that establishment to make it even more matrimonial.

An example is that Henry the eight never divorced. It was his weddings which were annulled or voided by some supernatural authority that only somebody with gout can appreciate.

Unfortunately since the second world war matrimony has been globalised with human rights which are but an excuse for trial without jury and for social control through representational democracy and consultations like this rather than referendum. All houses are now matrimonial properties in the eyes of the (matrimonial) court, domestic abuse the encompassing device.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Article 16 2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Marriage should be no concern of secular government. The concern of representational government should be to be direct democracy. Marriage in a representational democracy is social control through the promotion of matrimony rather than through the expansion of democracy. . I would say that representational democracy and matrimony are going hand in hand since many of the Acts of the last thirty years are about their mutual admiration. I would say that both have stagnated. Marriage through divorce and through English and Welsh parliaments utter inability to handle referendum.

I suggest that direct democracy is the only forward. How about a referendum that matrimony should be separated from the state?

And note Article 16 3) The FAMILY IS the natural and FUNDAMENTAL group UNIT OF SOCIETY and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Entitled hay.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes they are already part of your gang. And that any officiant is automatically a member of the state. In prisons they are wrapped up, including the pagans into one combined service paid by the state. They sing you tune.

Allow the church to proclaim common law marriages. That will make it popular. Give them back the baptism of children like Cyanide.

<https://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=ed160342>

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What are you going to do about the never marrieds?

I don't agree with the background para6 of R (Hodkin) v Registrar I would say that this history is a fantasy created by married judges to maintain a legal system without jurisdiction derived from trial by Jury.

Consider the second marriage of Sir Edward Coke which apparently broke many ceremonials and apparently had an officiant. The annulment that was

sort was excommunication. There was never a one way to wed and the state in the past has always been religious. It has never been civil or secular.. But the main problem with any of the Supreme Court rulings is that the judges are all on contracts of employment which recognises marriage and spousal survivor pensions. They were and are all married. their opinions are just that.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I obviously have a problem as soon as I spot the use of belief because I "see" it as supernatural and can be "not" seen just in the taking up of positions by people. That it might at sometime be considered a sacrament or not, just put any supernatural element in and you have a ceremony with some belief at its core. Is belief consent?

In place of venue if the issue is in the building of the supernatural which is the concern of architects and then we are back to that as an example of a singular authority over a democratic authority and to consent. The only way consent can be brought out of the supernatural is only by a suitable quorum . An attraction of some really ancient buildings or places is that the creators are perceived multiple and ancestral, not that will stop any one still trying to accredit a singular authority, a creator who therefore must hold jurisdiction. God created heaven and earth. You have no chance outside that jurisdiction and no choices either.

"An organisation that professes a secular belief system that claims to explain humanity's nature and relationship to the universe, and to teach its adherents how they are to live their lives in conformity with the understanding associated with the belief system."

"Never married" live their lives without conformity to belief systems or is that a myth.

Please share your views below:

Double negatives? The humanists are not a non-religious belief organisation because they support marriage.

The list has to have never married atheists at the top unless common law marriage is brought back.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Stand by Article 16 2) Marriage shall be ENTERED into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

What has it got to do with The size or beliefs of an organisation. According to COD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They never asked me to agree their disposition because I would have put them straight if I had know that the problem was that there was more than one purpose required by the act or that being a family home is a purpose that has to be protected by the state by dint of having the word attached to it by the state.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Try not allowing married people government jobs. Contra the equalities act what.

Do you mean like celibacy. Am I a monk?

You see this all started because a monk Martin Luther married a nun, Katharina von Bora and used it to escape the jurisdiction of the "Catholic" State who were in the throws of making the clergy the necessity to conduct a marriage.

<https://oxfordre.com/religion/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore-9780199340378-e-365>

Marriage was at the heart of Martin Luther's break with Rome and the Reformation that followed. He preached sermons praising marriage beginning in 1519 and several years later wrote his first formal treatise attacking the value of vows of celibacy and arguing that marriage was the best Christian life. In 1525 he followed his words by deeds and married a nun who had fled her convent, Katharina von Bora. What started as a marriage of principle and mutual esteem became one of affection and deep emotional bonds. Luther continued to attack the celibate life of Catholic clergy and nuns and to celebrate marriage as a godly estate throughout his career, in sermons, formal treatises, lectures, advice manuals, letters, comments on legal cases, and

casual conversation. In all of these, he both praised marriage and family life and commented on its burdensome side, moving from theoretical speculations while he was a celibate monk to reflecting on his own experiences as he became a family man, though his basic theology of marriage did not change much after the early 1520s. His words were direct and blunt, even in formal treatises. Sexual desire was inescapable for all but a handful, he argued, so should be channeled into marriage. Vows of celibacy should be rendered void, and monasteries and convents should be closed or much reduced in size. He agreed with St. Augustine on the three purposes of marriage, in the same order of importance: the procreation of children, the avoidance of sin, and mutual help and companionship. He praised spousal love but asserted that the ideal of reciprocal love in marriage was not an ideal of equality. Proper marital households were hierarchical, for the wife was and had to be the husband's helpmeet and subordinate. Bearing children was the "precious and godly task" for which women were created, he wrote, and death in childbirth and even the deaths of children were part of God's plan, though he himself was devastated when his twelve-year-old daughter died.

#### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

You get to invite do you?

Have it that only married people can officiate and ban people like me. Better still recognise my [REDACTED] common law marriage (and counting) even if you have thrown me in jail for [REDACTED] of it and it looks like you are going for another two years.

#### Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Aren't we all already registered at birth and national insurance with your Registrars.

Do the government enable me? By what jurisdiction? Marriage is the consent to your jurisdiction which bases its power over the of sale of land as if they are the creator. At its most disgraceful it resulted in the eradication of "native" Populations on distant continents, mass deportation, slavery and colonisation. Are you trying to say that you have Jurisdiction over atheism? Show me a single never married Judge?

Pocahontas was a good marriage for the English and tobacco. I wonder who got all of the property belonging to her relationship?

The greatest legal disgrace is that Solemnisation and divorce is not tried by jury. For this consultation why don't you just put another entry into the CPR and pretend that procedure is the rule of law...

#### Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Were clandestine marriages still marriages? Are sham marriages still marriages? Were they registered?

Clandestine marriage is common law marriage. See this attempt to grapple with the definitions

<https://academic.oup.com/jsh/article/47/2/507/1325355>

This article examines the historiography, the law, and the practice of irregular marriage in Britain. It argues that there has been a confusion of terms in the historiography of irregular marriage that has served to obscure its meaning, pattern, and incidence. Using evidence from Scotland ...

#### Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Fit and proper Don't you Mean married.

Outside of religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations what other organisations are there. Is Tesco's in or out?

#### Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Restrict the job to those that are married, they have already aced the proper fit up, including age? . Point out the bereavement benefits over never marrieds (unlike in Scotland) and get them to proclaim lawfulness.

Bereavement benefits have been to the Supreme Court and the jurist used children to sidestep their responsibilities.

#### Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Lots of supernatural words there. Let people pay what they want, it is all part of climate change.

<https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/garissa/ijara-clerics-ban-lavish-weddings-set-new-rules-226260>

Is marriage to blame for climate change and mass extinction? I think so. Yes your getting all my blame. I think the fundamental problem is property of the marriage. This to me is supernatural. Something real belonging to something that cannot be seen. Is property ownership by marriage responsible ownership? These officiants would be doing little more than taking a cut. They make nothing out of cohabitation. Who ever pays must see it as worth it. If they only charge a pittance for the wedding what should the charge for the divorce be. Are the never married subsidizing divorce?

Martin Luther did not see all of these things coming "He agreed with St. Augustine on the three purposes of marriage, in the same order of importance: the procreation of children, the avoidance of sin, and mutual help and companionship. "

"As cities and territories in Germany and then beyond became Protestant, they passed marriage ordinances and established institutions to regulate marriage, turning to Luther for advice on such issues as divorce, desertion, secret engagements, and parental consent. In making their decisions, judges slowly applied the new Protestant ideas about marriage, which people also learned about through sermons, artwork, and pamphlets. In general, however, other than clerical marriage, actual Protestant marriage patterns were not that different from Catholic ones. They fit with secular values as well, for rural and urban residents of all religious persuasions regarded appropriate marriages and stable families as essential to the SOCIAL ORDER. "

Marriage came before the rule of law....

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Name the acts of conflict of interest. Are married people little different than government officials. They consent to government whatever face you put on it. Sham marriages? Aren't they all? I would have no face and then sort out the problems of that society makes out for those born of cohabitation some even for periods less than seven days. I suggest that should be by trial by jury arranged by the authorising authority who collect tax as it the payers live together as husband and wife.

16 3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

I would say protection from married people like these judges

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Have many layers do you want and why? Jurisdiction, consent to be governed. Get us used to you making appointments and having a register. We are internet registered daily. The novelty has worn off and the register is global. It's got very little novelty. Why don't you give the register to the Mormons.

<https://www.pbs.org/mormons/etc/genealogy.html>

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

All eye of the supernatural beholder however provisional. I would not hazard about dignity but solemnity. The ritual whether a sacrament or not is the solemnisation that the 1754 Act got jurisdiction over, as being displayed now. I insist the officiants wear a hat so that we can differentiate ourselves.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How about giving the guidance to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/family/living-together-marriage-and-civil-partnership-s/getting-married-s/#h-proof-of-irregular-marriage>

"Proof of irregular marriage for social security purposes

If you are claiming social security benefits which require you to be married, or to have been married (for example to claim bereavement benefits), there is a special procedure which you can use to establish that you are, or have been, married by cohabitation with habit and repute.

You should inform the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that you are, or have been, married by cohabitation with habit and repute when you make a claim for the benefit.

An acceptance by the DWP for social security purposes will not entitle you to claim that you are, or have been, married for any other purposes. If you need to establish that you are, or have been, married for any other purpose, you will have to take an action for declarator of marriage, as described above."

What purpose your register? Gross domestic product or violence? Matrimonial social control is based on "domestic violence" The local welfare system is geared to domestic violence by what ever means. The prisons are filled with domestic violence but no register on whether married or not. Why is there a go to list of the married domestic violence? Is it because they are now divorced and therefore lumped in with the non married. In prison the dominant population is not married either through age and poverty of any kind. They all have a relationship with council tax as if living as husband and wife, with scams and arrears on account within most short prison sentences. Let the married turn a blind eye and blame drugs and alcohol.

Is the guidance dignified and solemn? How would a registrar know that? Something out of the home office or are they supernaturally married. Yes.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

And the fitness of the organisation relies with you.

Who guards the guards....more guards. and they will want payment. Why not make a panopticon put every body in a circle and put them back to face and then take all the types of person and try and arrange these types until no one type has an advantage over any other. Unfortunately they can't get married. because they can't see each other, possibly a vital part of consent.. Work out the the minimum number that is and call it self constrained. Better still start with one face to watch two backs, and those two to watch two more, do this until you arrive at enough numbers to represent all types then continue until all types have their eyes on the backs of all other types, then try three backs, four and more. Get the backs to marry by asking them to show consent by turning and facing the guard behind. Make a register.

Why don't you give who ever gets married a registered token which that they can sell to any person who can use it to find consent and give it to the proposed spouse who can can by their own free will take it to the register to show that they have conceited to be married and recognise the jurisdiction to which the registrar belongs. They then sell the token on (after a set time?) or having a baby and so forth.

The act for the better prevention of clandestine marriage came about in a time when men and women shared prisons. Bring shared prison (the guards are already mixed) back and encourage marriage there if marriage is so wonderful?

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes don't allow divorced people the job. Like if they divorce they will see it in the register.

Also if an above number of marriages arranged by the officient end in divorce they obviously should lose their job as well.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is supernatural is religious. Independence is religious. Marriage should be separated from the state. Why don't you call the General Register Office the Vatican or Canterbury Cathedral and have a Pontiff or Archbishop decide "fit and proper", although for some reason the pontiff isn't married.

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

You have already put aged18 on as a start. Why not change that to the age of marriage +1 day.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

?like not having legitimate children within a set time limit with a limit of two?

"St. Augustine on the three purposes of marriage, in the same order of importance: the procreation of children, the avoidance of sin, and mutual help and companionship. "

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1(a) whether orally or otherwise, but how will anybody still know that the consent is pure or constant.

1(b) don't you mean "lawful" impediment.

Isn't getting married consent to jurisdiction over all their property and the dissolution of their family and the exclusion of al, others to kangaroo courts without jury?

Yes drop anything: "lawful" "law" "lawfulness"lawfully".

### Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

How can ceremony be chosen by one and agreed by another if it's on the list? You mean ceremony selected from a list. Some jurisdiction gets to make the list.

2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Is that free impose jurisdiction?

### Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How about no rules of any kind.

Why not say that weddings are silent and the people need never have met and that any thing beyond that

2) Marriage shall be ENTERED into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

### Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What about never married weddings?

You think marriage isn't religious don't you, you little monkey you. Please show me a marriage which isn't religious: civil partnerships? I would say that according to the equalities act the special characteristic that is to be protected most certainly is heaven on Earth religious.

[REDACTED]

Please share your views below:

Is love civil content?



Any oath is religious. You could get that down to just saying or writing or signing a form on which you have the word I. I do declare.....love or are you claiming that as a contract term, future or present?

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You pretending that all weddings or ceremonies aren't religious? Council of Trent or common pre book were no different in construction than this belief system what ever way round.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What do you feel about your Sir Edward Cokes excuse for his marriage to Lady Elizabeth? I bet you thought that the 1754 Act for the better prevention of Clandestine marriage stopped common law marriage by the introduction of new devises to wedding ceremonies.

"Coke, aged 50, and Lady Elizabeth, aged 20, are married, "a strange match, and which seemed to afford more amusement to bystanders than comfort to the parties concerned." They are married secretly, violating a church canon against marriages in private houses or without a license or the publication of banns. Archbishop Whitgift moves to excommunicate Edward, Lady Elizabeth, the second Lord Burghley, and the rector who married them. Edward petitions for a dispensation, which is granted on account of Coke's "ignorance of the ecclesiastical law.""

<https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/coke-selected-writings-of-sir-edward-coke-vol-i--5>

Both second marriages. What's a dispensation? Can never marrieds get them?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"Permitted" or "legally permitted" is not used in the UN Articles of human rights 1948

The word CONSENT is only used once in the articles of the UN and that is in 16(2) : " (2) Marriage shall be ENTERED into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.", "ONLY with the free and full consent". Could ONLY be read to mean that the rule of law is not required? What is legally permitted to do with Only. Why is the rule of law concerning its self with tiffing details of ENTRANCE into marriage and the pondering of freedom and consent.. The law has had no difficulty [REDACTED] in identifying a long term relationship, joint tenancy, inventing trustees and proclaiming separation and setting obscene penalties to maintain its authority. Why bother you mean legally impose

"To take place anywhere". Again the supernatural, a place taken anywhere. As a never married I do not see this "place of marriage" but it appears to be virtual and world wide, hence the UN declaration. The rule of law is after that consent, as it gets it nowhere else in the Articles, where the rule of law is treated as a presumption or law as a guardianship. The rule of law by the control of dissolution of marriage, and the rights within marriage that might be broken gets consent to be governed from the married and so over the family as mentioned in a very messy Article 16(1) that "found" a family. Families do not "found" themselves, more created and hopefully with real consent. I would say that the family cannot be dissolved and what follows is that each spouse has their own family and in no way should the two families be seen as belonging to the marriage. The "child of the family" only requires a genetic connection to their parents to identify their family. And this is where the representative democratic state is heading. Why don't you get on with it. The entrance requires the biometrics of the free and full Consenters. so that the child of the family can legally present their identity in this country which allows sale of land, article 17 property, to nationals, article 15 but whose other nationality does not allow equal access. The child of the families now brought up dual or more national belong to which community do they have right, article 18, 27 and 29 and how should those communities accept them?

If only stands the place is where ever the couple freely consents and that is precisely where they stand when they register (their genetic genome) because that will need a machine in this Time beyond paper.

The UN in the preamble mention rule of law. It comes from a committee dictate of people who show little concern for trial by jury should be the rule of law.

Please share your views below:

English seems to get a battering with IN any particular venues: outdoor, on inland waters, in the air, in private homes. - out doors but in something like a structure, on inland waters but in something, in the air -in an aeroplane, get a room in a house.

Why not say that you have to ware a hat where ever.

### Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does that make it more expensive and you have a problem with Define public. The common law view would be that the married would have to come out from their privacy at some point at which point and place the marriage was public.

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

How do you say where is civil and where is religious when if you control marriage which is religious all places must be religious to you?

Recognise common law say that it can only be called by a jury. As well as its dissolution.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You don't tell common law married where they live. You don't need an officiant. You "Only" need the 2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. Article 16

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

No

Please expand on your answer:

2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

If they had wanted safe and dignity they would have said.

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Make it some where virtual.

Please share your views below:

2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Nothing about responsibilities and workings, just an accompaniment of free and full consent.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Why does the register want more than the year. The archbishop of Canterbury 1836 Hansard:

No less than three weeks' wages; and for what purpose was the notice to be given? It was for no benefit to him. What did it signify to him whether the birth was registered or not? It was required to be done just to gratify the statistical fancies of some few philosophers, in order that they might know how many persons died, and how many were born in a year. If they wished to obtain that information they ought to pay for it, and not make the poor man pay for it, with a penalty. But supposing the poor man omitted to give notice, he was told, that for some reason or other the child should be afterwards registered. Now, observe the peculiar correctness and care of the framers of the Bill not to give trouble. If, after fifteen days, the child was to be registered, some person who was present at the birth must attend the registrar to testify to the birth. It often happened that only three, and sometimes only two persons were present at the birth—the mother being one. How was it possible to get the nurse several weeks afterwards to meet the registrar, who had duties to perform that required him always to be going about the country. Besides this, the poor man, by attending the registrar, would be convicting himself of not having given notice of the birth within eight days; and he would be liable to a charge of 7s. 6d. for the delay. That was not all; for at the time the notice was given, it was required that the name of the child should be given. Now, it was perfectly well known, that, in point of practice, it was not usual to determine within eight days what the name of the child should be. It very often happened, too, that the name was changed. This change the Bill treated almost as an offence; for if notice were not given of any change made in the name of the child, the poor man was liable to an additional penalty of 5l. Was not that a monstrous provision? But it was worse than that; for although he must pay the 5l. penalty, he could not get the child registered at all. The Bill positively said that he should not. Surely this was not the way to prepare Acts of Parliament

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In common they don't have register

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In common law they don't have to register just get a disposition if anyone insists

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allow common law and get a more serious consultation of the state taking jurisdiction.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Article 16 3) and bring back Jactitation.

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Is there a time limit like how long it takes to make a baby. Make one and reference it back to common law.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can you use the word cohabited after marriage. What do you mean by celebrate. Consummate? Bring back the pleading in English act please. Put in a beaupleader.

Yes. Make a period of cohabitation like my [REDACTED], if only that you would have to define the property ownership rights of the relationship as those of married and apply them to those accused daily as cohabitants by you married legislators

The matrimonial causes says "obligation to cohabit" once or twice. Where do cohabitants have this obligation. The only place I can imagine ins in tenancy and ownership of residence. Tenancy is supernatural if without a landlord. The obligation is to pay the rent and council tax. Jointly and severely liable.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

A cohabiting couple, as opposed to a non cohabiting couple

What presumption. I though the mantra was that there is no such thing as common law marriage

Going to

2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

What's that got to do with beliefs of friends and family.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I petition myself every day.

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What do the 70% of marriages that result in the family home being sold think of this?

What do the offspring of these marriages that result in the family home being sold think of this? That the officiant is to blame.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Having been to prison as a civil prisoner I most noticed the fact that the prison guards are equal opportunity male and female but the inmates aren't. Why aren't the the inmates? Obviously same sex can meet there and become civil partners. If you believe that marriage is such a great thing why don't you further encourage weddings by having mixed sex prisons? I think this is a human rights or discrimination issue.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/mar/28/convicted-murderers-become-first-gay-couple-to-marry-in-prison>

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is all intention and purposes is it. Trust law for the innocent.

You worried it is some kind of spousal pension hand on? What about all those NHS pensioners who retlre back to their overseas origins and their spouses take an exceptionally long time to pass away

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Why does it need some liecenced register. Is God not good enough for you?

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People don't need the state to be married. Nine year olds can tell who is "going out" with each other. What business is 12 months of yours is it?

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2) Marriage shall be entered into ONLY with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it should be seen that Representational democracy wants to take away future democratic response to the next great unknown emergency. Could you put a clause in to say who and how the next emergency is called. Will any archbishops be involved?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would that be that [REDACTED]

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Are we talking about refugees crossing the channel in a rubber dingy?

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See above, I don't see that you can stop them.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings and civil marriages are religious. They should be restricted to multi faith churches which can also double up as courts for married people. To get a divorce that have to go back to the place where they were wedded.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No under the United (married) Nations law.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Just let people get on ships chuck the rich one off and then get off and say you were married. You can't bring them back from the dead.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Let them marry themselves.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand where the returned schedule will be revered , in a computer?

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The government should have no place in setting any wedding fees. Just recognise recognise common law marriage and ban one person from bring a dispute to court without the consent of the other. UN Article 16 2).

CLM does not need fees.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Recognise common law marriage CLM

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should not be a government register unless it is a consent to jurisdiction. Where is my consent to have any court judge me as "never married" And please do not hide behind supernatural "humanists".

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No need to register any marriage bar within its religion.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Like an engagement?

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Clean up the confetti after

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

all profits to be taxed

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Make the prisons mixed.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Just like common law marriage CLM.

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't forget the Application to authorise the authoriser, etc.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I dont think it will make much news. What are you worried about?

ONS : "Married and civil partner couple families remained the most common family type in 2019, representing two-thirds of all families (12.8 million). Cohabiting couple families were the second-largest family type at 3.5 million (18.4%), followed by 2.9 million (14.9%) lone parent families."

You could "marry" for free, the vast majority of cohabiting couples and probably a lot of lone parents over night by recognising common law marriage.

2.I presume that illegal marriages are those that undertake weddings but don't "civil register. I feel that I have been illegally married by the law and the council tax so that they can make me homeless.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I would like any subsidy I have paid to matrimonial society repaid.

The wife of bath does not mention costs and if you Only need (UN Article 16 2) the FREE and full consent 2) 3)4)&5) Marriage shall be entered into only with the FREE and full consent of the intending spouses.

Common law has no problems with costs. The administration by local authorities relates to the council tax. Everybody has already paid as if husband and wife.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Common law marriage does not need premises or offices. Agree that there is common law marriage and that it has to be derived from trial by jury cases so that the law can keep jurisdiction the land.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Common law does not need any wedding venue, registration,

The Act for the better prevention....led to a boom in some parish churches in the 19 century? Now they are all pretty redundant most of the time and a money drain.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/chartimage?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagecohabitationandcivilpartnerships/bulletins/marriage>

Venue is a meaningless place. Fleet weddings were at the Fleet prison because the bishops did not have jurisdiction over the vicars? I don't know if that meant they could not fine them or that the fines were small or that the vicars did not have to pay fees to the bishop? It was popular leading to the invention that marriage was brought into the secular court by the 1754 Act even though it would appear that common law marriage was also available and divorce did not exist for the masses. Some of the affect is that the couples appear not to have wanted to be married in their own parish as pointed out by the Archbishop of Canterbury

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/1836-07-11/debates/c97322cd-6965-4592-a414-5f82fcfd06d5/RegistrationOfBirthsMarriagesAndDeaths>

Apart from parents there could have been other legal impediments like the fact that they had cohabited or views on virginity. [REDACTED] Like Purge I find this to be a religious view. [REDACTED] somewhere I believe that contrition involved standing about a church in a white shroud holding a white wand at specified times, I believe to show that you were a fornicator and that the copulating was not a marriage consummation but I am yet to find where I read that? I would say that the civil courts are fully religious and you law commissioners are no different than a council of Trent. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contrition>

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The council tax is based on marriage, current law is bound to enforce the tax and presumably profits from it.

"the chargeable period" means the period consisting of the days which fall within the financial year concerned and on which a person is liable to pay council tax; and two persons are married to each other if they are a man and a woman—

(a)who are married to each other; or

(b)who are not married to each other but are living together as husband and wife.

Why has that had to be said that way? The whole thing could be tied up by using "cohabit".

The agents in LAs also control planning and designation of those properties for council tax. If the tax that derives from these properties is based on living together as husband and wife it follows that bias is felt towards matrimony by the state which makes the state unlawful to everybody who does not expect to be married.

There is a 25% single person discount, due every month, relevant to "lone" parents and illegal cohabitants and is policed by the local authority by yearly survey. People are well aware when they cohabit that there will be accusations of relationships for council tax purposes. That it appears that the numbers of people living alone is increasing, I would predict that as council tax goes up so will the number of people claiming 25% discount. The spare bedroom tax is another social control. The religion of this country that property belongs to the relationship originates in modern matrimony. I would blame the Married woman's property Act mostly for the fact that it still exists albeit in a very reduced state. It should have been called the woman's property act and better still the property act. It is the type of legislation that hinders the concept of common law marriage.

Single people ,lone parents are paying 25% more than they should? The argument in the welfare state is that if that leads to poverty, benefits will kick in but people get stuck in the status that they find themselves in. If you have applied for lone parent or single statues it is a financial burden to change the status. If the split is lone parents and all the rest lone parents must be disproportionately subsidising matrimony. Did lone parents vote for the 25% discount. I don't think so. How did matrimony get this massive hand on social control and convert it into tax. Just that a society would allow this type of social engineering is Vile. I would say singularly responsible for the mental heath of the vast majority of the impoverished and for many suicides and all senses of identity. There is no love for the land in this paradigm. Everything is a desperate war of relationships because of Arrears and debt.

The matrimonial view is very little else going on in the cohabiting and lone parent families than can be explained by this commonly found study on domestic violent in primates <https://www.livescience.com/48743-aggressive-chimps-reproduce-more.html>

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None. Local authorities are another supernatural term. Why should anything be a potential benefit to a supernatural state?

Local authorities...control anti social behaviour geared by the 25% council tax discount to encourage two adults to live together as if husband and wife. The living together as if husband and wife then affects the type of housing stock and infrastructure required. The country is being covered by a monotonous suburban sprawl based on matrimony.



You Lawyers and academics are obviously off the opinion that a recognised exclusive state of "marriage", bound by a wedding, is of benefit to humanity. But it is exclusive to all those not included in your ambitions.

Simply recognise common law marriage and justify your jurisdiction through trial by jury from the Inclusive society that common law would create.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Only allow overseas if the overseas jurisdiction allows the ownership of land there by foreign nationals

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I would say it was self evident that dual nationalism is powering a lot of the immigration into and out of this this country but you are leaving the non dual national no birth right save for the welfare state which might be alright unless your a single national and start to notice a disadvantage in being able to buy land overseas.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I am already paying your costs and you are enjoying a salary. You are here to keep everybody's personal jurisdiction. You don't have mine

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCP-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-23 10:53:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Methodist Church in Britain, [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Kent

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Prefer in-person interviews

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not my concern

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree in principle, though this could be tricky to determine

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should still allow a religious service to be conducted

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

No prohibition on what type of ceremony can take place in a venue

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

witnesses should be present

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I very much appreciate the responsibility of the Registrar General to issue licences

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

do not think terminally ill status should affect fees

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't believe charges should be the main focus (or deterrent) for any wedding.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDC9-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-23 12:55:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Fellowship of Professional Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married in any way.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I am in the early process of planning a wedding, and it saddens me that I would not be able to have a legally binding wedding with the celebrant of my choice without either finding another day to book one of the fairly rare 2+2 slots at a register office or paying hundreds of pounds more for a registrar to come out to my first choice of venue - and even then that'd limit us to where on the property we could get married anyway.

I also see couples struggle with wanting to hold their weddings their way, surrounded by nature or in places that are meaningful to them, and with rituals of their beliefs such as handfastings, without being able to just have that as their legally binding ceremony.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Outdoor weddings, particularly with independent celebrants, would have been a perfect choice for couples still wanting to hold their weddings during the summer of 2020 as guests could easily social distance outside and it would be a lot safer - but of course these would not have been legal and so the couples, should they still want to have legal marriages, would have to go to a register office. From what I saw online many register offices have fairly small rooms, and this meant that the social distancing allowed for barely even 10 people to be present and very sad looking rooms for what should be a really happy occasion. I believe lots of register offices were and still are overrun with a backlog of couples wishing to get married, which if independent celebrants were allowed to do could take some of that burden off.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement surely causes issues for couples who perhaps live apart prior to their marriage, if one of them is from another registration district, so abolishing that requirement seems like a good idea.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So many other legal requirements or documents are done online - car tax, getting a new passport or driving license, even most people's banking, etc - so why not have at least the first part online so that couples have the option to make life easier for themselves, especially if they have to fit in person meetings around work or child care.

A separate in-person interview later would presumably mean that the couple could book this in advance via giving notice online or by post, making use of the time when they are able to attend easiest.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Some couples wish to get married quickly, so if the paperwork and legal requirements can be done in just three days between the in-person interview and the date from which the couples can get married then that is how many days it should be.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Especially given the circumstances of COVID-19, having the ability for interviews to take place remotely seems like an obvious choice. This would also mean that people who perhaps cannot travel as easily or have other commitments, or perhaps are needing to stay home for their health, have the option to do so for at least the first interview.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

The more possibilities for giving notice the better, so this seems like something that should continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the notices can be given online as well then it makes sense that, if they are to be available to the public anyway as they currently are, this could be displayed online too.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A year is a good amount of time for the schedule to be valid for.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would be good to have the officiant on the schedule, but there are likely a number of issues that could occur if it was issued fairly far in advance - the officiant could get sick, retire, any number of things that would mean having it that set in stone would cause issues for the couple. But as long as this can be amended with a substitute officiant I don't think there would be too much of an issue.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense for substitute officiants to be able to officiate at the wedding, because there will always be unforeseen circumstances that could stop the named officiant from being able to attend.

Please share your views below:

Yes, if the couple wishes to have another officiant take over from the original one on the schedule then they should be free to make that choice.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If civil marriages are split between England/Wales and Scotland/N. Ireland/Ireland then it makes sense that Anglican weddings should be as well so that it is a fair playing field for all, regardless of religion or what type of ceremony the couple wishes to have.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

War damage is a hundred year old problem, so it does not seem like a fit rule for the modern day.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If for civil marriages the notice is to be displayed online, then I would think it only fair that banns to authorise an Anglican wedding should be published somewhere online too.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. If no one else is checking the evidence then the clergy must surely be the ones to do so. If not then a register office should be the ones to do so.
2. If other couples having civil marriages are able to do in-person interviews together rather than separately, then I don't see why the clergy should need to meet with each of the couple separately rather than together.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Civil notices of marriages to my understanding get undertaken by the couple together, so I don't see why they should have to make separate ones in order to be granted the licence for an Anglican wedding.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

If other religions have to be preceded by civil preliminaries and do not have their own preliminaries then it is only fair that they are all undertaken in the same way.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Civil weddings are what registration offices are trained for and there are other officiants for other types of weddings, so it makes sense for registration officers to only be able to officiate at civil weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not see why more than one trained and licensed professional would need to be in attendance to officiate the wedding.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as other religious organisations and non-religious organisations are able to have members recognised as officiants too.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other organisations should be able to nominate officiants, so that couples have a wider choice of ways they can get legally married that reflect their views and beliefs.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes. There are bound to be maybe political, right-wing, or even 'hate' groups, that possibly fall into the definition of non-religious belief organisations, so any that infringe on human rights or modern liberties should not be considered for officiating at weddings.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the first point, especially in COVID-19 circumstances, would need looking at again as an organisation may have hundreds of members, but if they live all over the country even getting 20 together regularly might be a difficult task. Would this meeting include online/virtual meet-ups for example?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. If an organisation for example goes against LGBT+ people or gay marriage, or has issues with "mixed" couples or other such moral beliefs then I do not believe they belong in the groups that should be able to nominate officiants.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes. It makes sense that people who attain a certain position within the organisation should be able to be nominated as officiants, as well as just nominating individuals who the organisation believe are able to do it.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A list of all nominated officiants makes sense, as it is then a place for couples to check that their chosen officiant is on there.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. If independent officiants meet the requirements and standards then why should they not be authorised and included on the list of officiants.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the organisations have a duty to make sure that the officiant is trained and up to standard.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the first two points fully, but for point three I believe the Registrar General, before determining the content, should at least consult with independent officiants to see if the training and development they would suggest fits with the purposes of the officiants being independent and able to conduct weddings in a way that non-independent officiants cannot, e.g. weddings with multiple faith and beliefs intertwined or no religious or spiritual aspects at all.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiants, particularly of non-religious organisations, are not being paid by the organisation in a standard way and all of their income comes from weddings/funerals and other ceremonies then they should be able to have a business from it - as unlike say a priest who might be paid a wage by the church for other services and prayers etc, the non-religious officiants might not have that other income or stability within their organisation.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants should be free to set the fee that they feel is right for their time and skill set spent working on the wedding ceremony before the date and for officiating at the wedding itself.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



But it would be good if people are able to switch between these types of officiants (independent, religious or non-religious) via an outlined process, as people may change beliefs over the course of their lives and they should be able to switch the type of officiant they are to reflect this if their belief system has changed.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should all have a standard they work to so that couples know they are getting a ceremony of quality, but it should have as much of their personality and fun in it as they want.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance yes, but it should not infringe on the freedom of couples to have the ceremony they want and to allow the officiant to match that - say with spiritual aspects, multiple faith traditions, or no rituals or traditions, etc.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Organisations will know best how they want their officiants to undertake their responsibilities, so it makes sense for them to be the ones to monitor their standard.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this should only come after raising the issue to the body who nominated them and seeing if they are able to review the nominated officiant first and either retrain them or act themselves before the General Register Office makes the decision to de-authorise them.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the independent officiant is part of the Wedding Celebrancy Commission or a celebrant organisation within that (e.g. Fellowship of Professional Celebrants, Fellowship of Independent Celebrants, United Kingdom Society of Celebrants, etc) it should be down to them to monitor the officiant in the same way religious or non-religious organisations do. If however the officiant is not part of one of these organisations, then it should be the General Register Office who is mainly responsible for this monitoring.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see what setting a time limit would achieve.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Would officiants of religious or non-religious groups authorisation lapse if they failed to engage in continuing personal development? I think that this needs to be the same for independent officiants too, so either they all must have proof of continued professional development or it is unfair to expect that of just independent officiants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would give couples the freedom to have their ceremony the way they want, taking all their spiritual beliefs and personalities into account.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would put all weddings on an even playing field, and give couples the freedom to choose what type of wedding they would like.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would give couples the freedom to have a civil ceremony but with aspects that perhaps reflect their families beliefs that they do not fully hold to and so would not want a fully religious ceremony for.

Please share your views below:

Readings, poems and hymns should be allowed.

Symbolic rituals if they are what the couple would like, past just a standard ring exchange.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple wish to have a more private ceremony without public access being allowed then they should have that right.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would give couples a lot of freedom to have their wedding in a place where they are comfortable or holds great meaning to them. Given COVID-19 too it would make sense for weddings to be held outside so that people can socially distance easier and more safely.

Please share your views below:

As long as the officiant is happy with the location chosen by the couple, it is a safe place, and permission has been granted by the land owner or the ship/boat/plane owner then I see no reason as to why weddings should be limited in particular venues - they should be able to take place anywhere.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the venue owners accept it then couples should be free to hold their weddings there, even if their beliefs do not match with what the venue organisation believes in.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They will be the ones holding the wedding in that location and will likely be the ones with the opportunity to visit it and make sure it is safe and that permission has been granted, so it makes sense for them to have that responsibility.  
If not then it should lie with the couple.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to it being safe, but what one person classes as dignified another might not agree with, so that would need to be more thoroughly defined.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Locations being safe should be obvious, but guidance as to what "dignified" represents would be useful, and it would need to account for couples different tastes and beliefs to make sure it is not discriminatory.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense to also have pre-approved locations, as that would possibly save time and effort on the officiants part making sure it is a safe location and the couples would know that it is a good location to use for their wedding.

Please share your views below:

Maybe it should be similar to how the current registered venues system works, just not cost as much money and be a far quicker process.  
Perhaps it could even be done just by a set number of officiants who use that location for a wedding in a year - say 25 weddings happen there in a year, with 25 different officiants, then that is a clear indicator that it would be an ideal location for pre-approval as it has been used before and deemed safe by the officiants.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be registered in the language or languages that suit the couple, so it makes sense to have both English and Welsh only options available as well as both.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples may have work commitments or other such reasons why they cannot cohabit directly after the celebration, so it seems outdated to force that upon them for the marriage to be valid.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should know whether the ceremony will be legally binding or not.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

It should be easier for these people to get married if that is their wish. The ability to get legally married at a persons home or in the place they are being kept should they be housebound or terminally ill would be great for them. The ability to consent through means other than spoken allowed would be good too, for anyone who has say lost their voice through surgery or the like.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe they should give notice, but that it should be a rush service if given a doctors note so that they are able to go through with the marriage quicker, especially if they do not have long left to live.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given the current COVID-19 situation this seems like a good emergency provision to have in place.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It only seems fair that such emergency provisions apply to all couples.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Perhaps on vessels that are registered to an owner or company from England and Wales.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other officiants should be able to do these weddings as well if they are registered and nominated to do weddings legally on land already.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of any such demand but I imagine there would be for non-religious belief weddings, especially if sailing or travelling by boat is a big part of the couples lives together.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if they are not housebound due to some medical reason beyond their control.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

It is not the person who is terminally ill's fault that they cannot travel and that it might be unsafe for them to do so, so it makes sense on a compassionate ground for this fee to be lower.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be less than current licensed venues.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a set fee that cannot be changed individually.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

On compassionate grounds where the terminally ill party is unable to come to the registration office there should be no extra fee for the registration officer to come to them.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the costs are outlined and make sense.

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current law means that many couples end up having two weddings - a legal one and one that actually reflects who they are as a couple and their beliefs. I believe that some may well be discouraged from getting married because of this, or end up having a wedding that they do not feel happy with.

I believe, particularly at this time during COVID-19 when register offices are overwhelmed, that these proposals would enable more couples to get legally married and even under more normal circumstances some couples may discover a way they could get legally married that they couldn't before and feel more willing to have such a wedding.

Currently many independent celebrants miss out on income and providing a couple with what they want as the couples are misled by registrars who tell them that only they can hold ceremonies at certain venues which is untrue, especially as couples already know that they would not be getting a legal wedding with a celebrant.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. There currently are not enough 2+2 slots for couples to have the register office wedding they would like, meaning many end up paying more for a service they did not want in the first place.
2. The costs of legally marrying on approved premises seem very high, as registrars charge a lot to come out usually and this might put couples off or leave them making hard decisions about the type of wedding they want.
4. I know of many wonderful outdoor venues that can do amazing weddings for couples on a cheaper budget and more to their taste, but these are not able to be legally binding under the current law and restrict choice for what the couple wants.
5. Many couples end up having two weddings, the ceremony that reflects them truly with all the spiritual beliefs they may want included and in a location they want, and the legal wedding at a register office. This obviously means costs are higher, and couples may feel pressured to choose one or the other but feel they cannot have the wedding they want if it will not also be legally recognised.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Having more availability of 2+2 weddings at register offices would give couples the opportunity to save money if they just wanted the legal part without all of the ceremony.

Couples could save a lot of money if they were able to just have the one, legally binding wedding that reflects who they are and their beliefs and is held in a location that they want such as outdoors. They would have no need for a separate, legally recognised wedding if the original ceremony of their choice was legally binding, which could save them hundreds of pounds.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Many smaller venues are currently unable to justify the cost of the current approved premises license, one such example being a friend of mine who wanted to get legally married at her family's pub but realised it was not possible for them to put up the money for it and meet the requirements and is now stuck with what she wishes to do as they are not able to have their wedding in a meaningful place to them. Smaller venues such as these would be in a much better standing under the proposed reforms.

My understanding is that registration officers attending weddings on approved premises are harder to organise than independent celebrants due to their other commitments, and that they are generally more expensive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Many venues could benefit from the proposed scheme, especially those who are mainly outdoor based locations. Businesses around this such as tent/marquee hires, food vans, etc that all help with outdoor weddings would likely benefit from the increased opportunities that these types of weddings being legal would offer. There would likely be many businesses that could diversify to benefit from the increased number of weddings, such as say farms who might already struggle or already diversify with summer events and pick-your-own schemes.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities in control of the register offices are currently overwhelmed by couples trying to get married now who had to postpone during COVID-19.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I believe that local authorities would benefit from being able to have their register offices diversify their role to include lists of nominated officiants, and to be able to do work online to do with the giving of notice - work that could even be done from home if current circumstances like those around COVID-19 were about. Local authorities could also benefit from many venues in their areas perhaps drawing more people in for weddings, particularly if outdoor weddings are approved as this would help coastal places that may currently be suffering from lack of tourism and rural areas too.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There could be a big potential benefit if people are able to get married at sea, as many within the maritime industry could diversify their trade and open up new avenues of business.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Government and local authorities could benefit from new fees to do with nominated officials, pre-approved venues, etc - as well as the benefit from more weddings happening and so more money just generally being spent.

Businesses would have the option to diversify into weddings, and those already in the wedding industry could have more weddings to cater for - both meaning that more money could be brought in.

Religious and non-religious organisations would benefit from a more even playing field, and know that couples are happy choosing their types of weddings and are not feeling forced into it - therefore they may even pay more for these types of weddings if they have true freedom to choose what they want the wedding ceremony to entail.

Independent officiants could get a large benefit from being able to do weddings legally, as currently sometimes they do not get work from couples who feel forced to only have a legal ceremony if they cannot afford that and a ceremony that better reflects their personalities and where they would like to hold their wedding.

Couples would benefit massively from this, and would ultimately save money if they have more freedom to choose where to hold their weddings and who will take them. The mental cost will be a lot lower too, as they would not have to perhaps shelve their beliefs or personality for a legally binding ceremony. Couples may also be willing to spend more on just the one wedding that reflects what they want rather than two, therefore increasing the possible benefits to other businesses in the wedding industry.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDX9-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-23 14:52:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We wanted a legal handfasting ceremony outside in our local woodland. This was not allowed, so we had to settle for civil ceremony in our local Register Office.

It was not "us" it felt totally cold and unfeeling and we felt discriminated against because of our Pagan beliefs.

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a celebrant, this has affected my work as no ceremonies were obviously allowed.

It was also heartbreaking to see the emotional anguish and stress that my couples are going through because of the restrictions and confusing information given out by the government!

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe a period of notice is required if it is for the purpose of carrying out any legal checks for their right to marry.

If not and it is just "admin" then I'm not so sure it is still appropriate anymore.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems more practical for busy modern lives, but I still agree for legal identity purposes that they should be seen in person as required.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

As and when required by the couple, life is not lived "by appointment".

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I'm unsure with this, but yes, if concerns arise then yes, in person interviews should be carried out.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I believe that freedom of choice should continue.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is safe to do so, then yes, I can't see an issue there.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If that does not cause any administration back logs, then I would consider that to be fine.

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that back up officiant should be put in place in case of emergencies etc.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most definitely, there should always be a 'Plan B'.

Please share your views below:

As a trained celebrant I have often stood in for colleagues with similar training experience, across the country who for personal or circumstantial reasons have been unable to perform the ceremony.

It has always gone smoothly as our scripts and planning notes are prepared so that anyone could take over in the event of an emergency.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm unsure as I'm not aware of the legalities of this, so cannot make an knowledgeable comment.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again my knowledge of this is not strong, but it would make common sense to have an alternative way of publishing these.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I believe so.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

If this is required by law, then yes.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, both should attend.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure of the reasons for the difference, so I can only suggest that if couples wish to be married in their faith, then their requirement should be followed providing there is no discrimination by doing so.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, most definitely, in order to protect all involved and ensure the ceremony is completely legal.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that trained Celebrants, with further appropriate training, would be more than capable of providing legal Civil ceremonies according to the law.

There is a great demand for couples wishing to have this kind of service in unlicensed/outdoor venues.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe they can provide the service singularly.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is appropriate for their faith, then yes.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our country is so wonderfully diverse and it is this that propels that needs changing the most!

Spiritual and multi-faith ceremonies are in high demand!

Our laws must now reflect society's modern choices.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Total freedom to express yourselves according to your beliefs is an absolute must!

Please share your views below:

I personally think whilst a list would be a good idea, officiant should be able to register as an individual as well as organisations, as many Celebrants/Officiant work in an independent capacity.

This list should be granted on merit, qualifications and previous proven experience.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think for organisations that would be a reasonable starting point.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I can't fully agree, because of my belief in freedom of expression, fully as your choice of wording is too vague.

Without further expansion on "public policy" and "morality" I'm not sure who can judge the limitations there.

If it breaks the law, then obviously yes, I do agree that they should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Again, I'm not sure what is meant by "office" in either group, so can't answer this. This needs to be expanded upon.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A general register is an excellent idea and I believe will give couples a great deal more confidence.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely!

As a celebrant, I, like the majority of my colleagues, would be more than happy to go through the application for any list in order to be able to provide a legal ceremony for potential clients.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely, for the protection of their clients and for the professionalism and reputation of their organisation.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think fully qualified celebrants most definitely should and those that are not with years of experience behind them, should be able to apply, with client and professional supplier testimonials and hold relevant insurances etc to back up their application.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it is a service and they should be recompensed for their time and expenses.

It may provide a valuable source of income for them and especially their officiants.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I've had to disagree as you have not explained what a "conflict of interest" would involve.

As for fees, there should be no limit as independent officiant put a massive amount of time, effort and expense into their ceremonies compared to current religious and civil ceremonies. This cannot be standardised under one set fee.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The whole point of being independent is to enable us the freedom to perform the types of ceremonies that our clients are looking for.

There is no reason why we cannot perform the legal aspects during our ceremonies so long as we follow the guidelines.

For any ceremonies that fall outside of that, then clients would be made aware they would be having a "celebratory" ceremony only and it would not be legally binding.

The majority of clients only want freedom of choice, any 'extremes' are incredibly rare and are often not worked with because of the personal choice of the celebrant not to do so.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

When it comes to any legal declaration and vows section of the ceremony, then yes, I agree.

As celebrants, we love the whole idea of marriage and all that it entails, so yes, we take that part of the ceremony very seriously.

This should not lose sight of the wishes of the client to have personalised ceremonies, or else it will become cold and unfeeling and totally missing the whole point of change!

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance and training on how to correctly deliver and record the legal requirements, then yes I agree.

In order to keep the free and independent nature that our potential clients are attracted by, I don't think an already trained and qualified celebrant requires much more than this. Anything more would be restrictive.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the main yes, but I believe independent requests/complaints should be considered.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it is fair and unbiased and there is options for appeal.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it is fair and unbiased and there is options for appeal.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think regular application reviews, perhaps every 3-5 years would be appropriate.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with CPD. It would depend upon the cost of CPD and to the extent of what is required. A lot of independent celebrants work to small budgets and on a part time basis, so I don't think it should be compulsory as part of the list registration. I do think lapse of insurances should apply to your suggestion though.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think all options should be available for couples to make their choice.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes! Freedom of choice is all everyone wants!

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever works for couple and their faith.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would save a heartbreak for clients that have a faith but are not regular worshippers to be able to acknowledge it in their own way.

Please share your views below:

Prayers, readings and hymns/music seem to be the most specific choices that couples I have spoken to want.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If appropriate.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, freedom of choice to be able to celebrate a marriage is all client want.

Please share your views below:

No limits.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the other law about open doors and opening to the public is repealed, then this should also not apply.

Again, people should be able to chose their location without red tape!

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would make everyone's life and choices if there was equality and freedom of movement across all sectors.

If it is agreed and appropriate to all parties involved, then I do not see an issue?!

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is agreed as part of a risk assessment and is safe and appropriate for all to attend.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safety, most definitely.

"Dignified" would be assessed on the basis of the individuals as what is appropriate for some, may not apply to others.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to a point, all guidance is welcome, but based on client choices and officiant based on experience and common sense.p

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it is optional otherwise it becomes too restrictive and isolates smaller and unconventional potential venues.

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to 1 & 2.

Part 3 whilst ok, could be recorded in the initial meetings.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this will reduce admin time considerably.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences



Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although point 4 i feel is discriminatory and exclusive towards religious same-sex couples.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe these are administrative/human errors that could be corrected at a later time.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to all apart from my own personal opinion regarding religion, same sex couples and their faith.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure as emergencies around life/work restrictions may prevent them from cohabiting. Is there a time limit where thi should apply.

I can understand the reasoning, especially in sham marriages, but would need more clarification.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure as I dont know what legal rights a long term committed coue would lose by doing this?

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Again, unsure as I dont understand what legal ramifications there are for the couples or individuals within that marriage.

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I dont agree to no 1, but I do to no 2.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None that I am aware of?

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, sometimes these ceremonies are carried out at very short notice and at very distressing times.  
There should be special measures put in place to avoid to much red tape and to be sympathetic to their needs.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Simplicity and an unbiased approach would be much more user friendly for all involved.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems appropriate.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, seems appropriate.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to all, this virus has proved that these measures need to be in place. Love does not stop.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If appropriate, then yes.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We cannot control fate, so we should be able to prepare for all eventualities.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

If its assessed as safe for all involved, then I cannot see any difference between the type of vessel used

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All details and persons involved should be registered, if only as potential witnesses to any disputes.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they know what they are doing and all the paperwork is completed, then anyone can do it.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I dont see how "rank" and position would make any difference

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I live in the Midlands, so not really applicable, but image if the service is available, then yes it would be popular.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without out-pricing/discriminating those who may be on benefits/disability and a limited budget, preventing them from marrying as a result if fees being to high.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with no 2. It is costly enough caring for someone in hospital as it is. Compassionate fees are a must and wavered where budget is limited, it should not be prohibited and could be allowed to be paid off after the ceremony and spread the cost.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would depend on days/times/travel/time spent.

I believe it is to variable to set a fee and should be costed accordingly.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any service should be cost effective and profitable but options to be available to suit all budgets

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would potentially financially discriminate those on benefits and prove prohibitive.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

As an independent we choose whether we give our time for free.

As a local council who has a budget and wages to cover, I think a basic nominal fee to cover costs is appropriate but arrangement to pay in installments/after the ceremony could also be considered

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Most people I have come across want to get married, only a tiny percentage just want to commit to each other.

The restrictions around legal ceremonies make it very difficult for people to have the kind of wedding they want, that puts an awful lot of people off. They don't want to settle and they don't like the idea of being dictated to on what they regard as a totally personal choice and what love means to them!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The lack of availability of the statutory 2+2 ceremony is extremely restrictive and discriminatory both in terms of lifestyle choices and budget.

In regards to legal venues and cost etc, the couples are prepared to pay what is in their budget to have their legal ceremony on the same day. It is the restriction of choice I regard as the type of venue and the restrictions within the current legal marriage.

This is why celebrant ceremonies are becoming so popular as the choice they offer is broader, more accepting, less prejudiced and more value for money.

The distress to the couples is immense having to pay twice to have the legal marriage contract ceremony and then having the personalised ceremony on top, so they can have the type of venue and content that is personal to them.

This then excludes those on a smaller budget and they have to settle for an option based on price alone, and not have what they wished for, which is not fair.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Increasing legal ceremonies, especially the statutory basic legal ceremonies would help enormously.

Savings measured in terms of less stress and ease of use for the couples would be amazing. I can see that if a better flexible service is offered it would serve to boost bookings I'm sure.

Again refer to my first point on separate legal ceremonies. I would add that more co-operation and flexibility with working alongside celebrants and

providing the legal aspects of a ceremony at the same time, would also be incredibly welcome so that couples can have what they want on the day.

But, ultimately when it comes to being cost effective for couples and service providers alike, it would just be simpler and easier all round if every type of officiant could perform legal ceremonies.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no opinion of their costs, they must charge what they need to in order to deliver that service at a profit that is suitable for that department, but also on a point of scale, as public servants to their community, they should be obliged to provide a ceremony that is suitable for all budgets so that no one is discriminated against.

I think more registrars should be employed or indeed sub-contract the work out to celebrants who are already trained to reduce the backlog and also provide a wider service. Costs are relative to the type of services required.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1) So long as it is above board then I think this would allow for a much more free flowing and time efficient service.

2) These need to be increased or see point 3

3) We are already allowed to offer ceremonies in these venues. However, it would be the most suitable conclusion to either allow the registration service to sub contract their work out to officiant to do their ceremonies and be paid on a casual contractor basis. Even better, listen to the demands of the clients, the couples and allow the religious and non religious officiant to carry out legal ceremonies!

4) Everyone would benefit from changing the laws. The Registrar, the officiant and celebrants, the venues, licensed and non licensed and the knock effect to the wedding industry as a whole. Covid is destroying this industry, it needs a massive boost now!

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can say no more other than I consider it restrictive and discriminatory and incredibly outdated with modern society.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It could improve their numbers and efficiency making it a more user friendly service and make their clients happier people!

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is too restrictive within the UK and free movement should be allowed.

2) It could become less bureaucratic, but keep the ID checks in place for the safety of all involved, but make the process less 'red tape' and better customer service. It would be a massive boost not only to the wedding industry but also the tourist industry too!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) It would make the process less stressful and it will just make people happy!

2) A boost to the wedding and the tourist industry! We have a great history, beautiful spaces, wonderful beaches, how could it not work for the benefit of all?!

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no real knowledge of this, but again, if it gives people their dream day and makes them happy and is easy to conduct, why not? Again it could also be another source of income for our ailing fishing and tourist industry!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The couples are suffering the most, some having g to pay twice to get what they want.

The registrar service should offer more statutory ceremonies. It would boost profits give clients more options to choose from

Officiants of all types would increase profits and scope to work in conjunction with the registrars giving the couples what they need.

The boost financially to non licenced and alternative venues would be incredible. It would boost employment and also increase work for other wedding related businesses! Plus increase to the tourist industry!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDC8-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-23 17:11:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Although I am not married, my preference would be to get married in a Pagan-style Handfasting ceremony conducted by a Priest(ess) who is a registered celebrant; probably in an outdoor setting.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Covid has demonstrated the success of remote meetings, as long as there is a video element this would be an adequate alternative that would reduce the amount of time taken for travelling to an interview.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:



I believe that Banns should be published online as per notices

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I would also like to see other religious ceremonies to be recognised as legal marriages

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an essential move forward to ensuring equality

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, there should not be such a list

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would simplify the nomination process and reduce administrative burden

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would enable independent civil officiants, as well as providing a structure for religions who do not have a structure that would allow for registration via that organisation.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would potentially limit the ability of officiants from smaller religions to fund the costs of officiating

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to this being withdrawn if the previous proposal of allowing religious aspects within a civil ceremony are approved

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a matter for each organisation / premises and not for the law

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This should be operated by the local authority

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be the ability to reduce or waive waiting / notice times if exceptional need.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCA-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law

Submitted on 2020-09-24 19:00:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As an Independent Celebrant I feel strongly that couples should be able to choose their officiant and that Celebrants be trained to handle the legal proceedings during their ceremony as is done in USA, Australia and other countries

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a fully qualified and trained Officiant I agree strongly.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Being a celebrant is a vocation as well as a business, but in order for it to be a job we can invest in fully we need to be able to make a living

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

If we make the officiant licensed instead of the venue then couples can marry in a place that is meaningful to them

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current laws force couples to have weddings that are not in line with their beliefs or values if they wish for the marriage to be legal.

By allowing independent officiants to marry a couple legally and by opening up the locations in which a wedding ceremony is possible will increase the number of couples getting legally married

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost and availability of a simple 2 x 2 service varies greatly between areas, and often couples are pressured into having a larger service or told incorrectly that they can not have any one other than themselves officiate their ceremony.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

By allowing couples to marry anywhere it will drive down the cost of venues as couples have more options and weddings and marriages will become more affordable to all.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Many couples wish to have their ceremony at a time that registrars are unavailable, for instance the evening, bank holidays and during the christmas period.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCW-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-28 09:43:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a Quaker Meeting House.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No strong view

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no strong view

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no strong view

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

no strong view

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

no strong view

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The decision should be guided by the couple - totally at their dscretion.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no strong view

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

no strong view

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

no strong view

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

no strong view

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no strong view

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These principles are followed by Quakers,in practice and by rule.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will save expense.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This works for Quakers and should work for others, so long as the relevant bodies act responsibly.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No strong views.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No fee should be charged for this registration - it would place an unacceptable burden on small organisations.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure. Criteria, for example, evidence of good character, should be put in place - perhaps a DBS certificate.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is appropriate but should not end up being burdensome. Does the relevant organisation have (and use) a robust safeguarding policy and procedures? A balance needs to be struck between enabling and reasonable enquiry into standards.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will promote raising to the standard expected of clergy and registering officers.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Inclined to agree.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Use discretion. Quakers, for example, have a detailed handbook. Doubtless other organisations (churches) have centuries of experience in this area.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How will they find out? By complaint by the couple?

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In practice, Quakers use preparation and discretion when parties apply to have a wedding according to Quaker usages.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Flexible!

Please share your views below:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Flexible - at the discretion of the parties - a good thing.

Please share your views below:

I have no strong feelings.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no strong views.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality, suitability, dignity as guiding principles. (Recall disabled access.)

Consultation Question 52:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Is access available to the parties and invitees?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No strong views.

Please share your views below:

I don't know.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As I live in Wales and speak Welsh and have witnessed vows in Welsh, and as Welsh has legal status in Wales, then I am firmly of the opinion that Welsh-only should be allowed. And officiants and civil officers should have an adequate knowledge, so that they can understand the terms used.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is being made easier by the LC's proposals.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am inclined to agree.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule appears to be a very good idea - straightforward.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are risks on water. How many people can be safely accommodated. Dry land, please.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know but I am very sceptical about the need and even the dignity and the access (and expense) for invitees.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't know but I am very sceptical about the need and even the dignity and the access (and expense) for invitees.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know but I am very sceptical about the need and even the dignity and the access (and expense) for invitees.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The same rules, if the new law permits.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the new law has got as far as permitting maritime weddings.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea, but I am very sceptical.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fixed time limit SHOULD apply. There should not be different rules for weddings on land and those at sea.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a person already has the extra costs associated with chronic sickness or disability. (Even imprisonment tends to have adverse effects upon health.)

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

I don't feel strongly either way.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am inclined to agree.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a person already has the extra costs of living associated with chronic sickness or disability. (Even imprisonment tends to have adverse effects upon health.)

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Such a person already has the extra costs of living associated with chronic sickness or disability.

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see some merit in a fee for independent officiants, but I am opposed to fees (NEW!) for officiants trained and appointed by robust bodies, for example, churches, Quakers, Jews and (presumably) other faith bodies and humanists. Such fees would be a burden on small bodies. Society is promoting marriage and should not place any unnecessary obstacles in the way.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I agree but have no evidence to offer from my own experience.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

None

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

None

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Probably cost-neutral or mildly cost-saving. An impact assessment, after consultation with LAs, please?

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

LAs would not have to send out two officers to a wedding outside the register office.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I foresee the risk of lots of fees, around registration of officiants and the training of independent officiants, creeping in, with initial fees, and increases, being seen by Government as a useful revenue raising exercise.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDC6-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-28 13:55:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, interviews should be possible remotely. This is especially important given the covid situation, as people with health problems may be unable to attend in person.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The second requirement seems artificial and unnecessary to me.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This could allow discrimination against religious organisations that have a strong environmental ethos, including Buddhists who have religious motivations for supporting non-violent direct action to prevent climate change. Arguably it could also be interpreted to mean that the Catholic church should be excluded, since their opposition to abortion and contraception is plainly contrary to public policy and at times contrary to law (transmission of HIV has been held to be a crime in numerous criminal cases, and some boroughs prohibit religious protests at abortion clinics).

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance on this point would be helpful, especially in relation to historic sex abuse allegations.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why prevent someone making a living by performing a professional service? In particular payment to cover time and travel costs may be needed for more remote locations.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any logical reason from preventing someone acting in two capacities, e.g. on behalf of a Buddhist organisation and on behalf of a non-religious environmental or animal rights organisation. Those beliefs are compatible and many Buddhists share both.

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To me this wording seems unnecessarily vague, pompous, and anachronistic. If you need wording on this issue then it must be modernised, e.g. that marriage is a lasting and meaningful commitment.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the guidance is wholly non-discriminatory and non-binding.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a means for independent scrutiny and for anonymous complaints to be raised, e.g. regarding sexual abuse allegations (which of course have historically been concealed by churches).

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consistency must be ensured between independent and nominated. If an independent is de-authorised for conduct then there must be a system to de-authorise nominated officials for the same conduct. Religious organisations should not be allowed to continue hiding misconduct.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would suggest periodic training and re-authorisation to reflect social and legal changes, e.g. every 5 or 10 years.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why is no equivalent requirement imposed for those nominated by religious organisations?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I strongly support allowing weddings outdoors and on inland waters.

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

My grandmother's home includes a lovely room that is a consecrated Catholic chapel. She uses that room as a living and dining room. I am not Catholic. Why should I be prohibited from marrying in that room but not anywhere else in her house?

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I consider these requirements vague and anachronistic. Safe for whom according to which standards? Need it be child-proofed and wheelchair accessible? What about steep stairs and uneven floors in older buildings? What on earth do you mean by dignified - is it wholly subjective?

No

Please expand on your answer:

I consider this far too restrictive. I am a mountaineer and rock climber, as is my partner (and many of our friends). Outdoor locations that are safe for me and my partner might be unsafe for those who are not skilled mountaineers. If all those attending will be safe then why prevent us marrying in a location simply because unskilled people might be unable to access it safely e.g. due to steep or slippery ground. See note above about uneven footing, wheelchair access etc.

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest you allow 1-4 people to be named as parents. My biological father abandoned my mother and me when I was young. I found it highly offensive to be asked to name him on my wedding certificate given his absence, irresponsibility, and utter disregard for his own marriage vows.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no fee.

### Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You are proposing a postcode lottery by local authority. Set the fees nationally.

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law is far too restrictive and prevents people having weddings that align with their personal values. The nicest weddings I have attended were in a private garden (in Canada) and a humanist ceremony in a private home (in Scotland), and both reflected the values of those marrying. By contrast traditional English weddings are often so sexist that I find them offensive -- this was true of my own civil ceremony, where the order of the vows was inflexible and based on sex (why??) and I was required to name the father who abandoned me as a child but not given space to name the mother who birthed and raised me. In my view it is essential that the ceremony becomes far more flexible so as to reflect the reality of current society, including gender equality, and greater diversity of beliefs.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I strongly object to the idea of a postcode lottery for fees, or for having to pay some bureaucrat to travel to the intended location to determine if he thinks it is safe. As specified, my partner and I are mountaineers. We should be entitled to marry on a hill in the Lake District if that location is safe for the physical capabilities and mountain experience of the attendees and aligns with our values. In my view it is wholly irrelevant whether a penpusher who will not be attending the weddings thinks the location is 'safe' and I would be outraged to be charged a fee for him to assess the alleged safety.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There is a shortage of authorised venues in many areas, so the venues tend to book out many months in advance and the catering nearby costs an absolute fortune. Allowing weddings in a greater range of venues will increase choice, reduce waiting times and greatly reduce the cost.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCU-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-28 21:52:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems very old-fashioned, and given the current restrictions in place all over the country due to Covid-19, requiring couples to be in certain places for certain time periods is unnecessary, unfair, and sometimes impossible (unless they want to break the law!).

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I work in a Hotel that hosts weddings, and since the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had couples say to us that our local Registry Office (Enfield) has a 3-month back log to clear through before anyone new can book an appointment. This is unfair for couples, causing delays to wedding plans, and means we and other wedding venues can be left struggling for business (in a time where venues are already struggling).

Furthermore, with Covid-19 restrictions in place, face-to-face meetings can be tricky to arrange or to attend. Online notice, or event online meetings in the first instance are a very easy way to avoid these issues.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I believe seven days is not an unreasonable amount of time for the couple to have to wait, and gives enough time for the necessary paperwork to be checked over.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think remote interviews should definitely take place. I understand the need for possible in-person interviews in the cases of uncertainty or other issues, but for the majority of couples, remote interviews should work perfectly well.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, why not! As long as an interview then takes place, and the relevant documentation is all in order

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This could allow members of the public to object to the marriage if they felt necessary, and as long as couples are consulted before the decision is taken, i.e., in case if displaying this marriage would be of harm to the couple or any close family.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

under 'usual' circumstances I would agree that 12 months would be a suitable amount of time, as most couples have often chosen their venue by the time confirm the registrar/celebrant time. However, given all the disruption that the Coronavirus Pandemic has caused, many venues are now booked up for at least the next 12-18 months (due to lots of postpone weddings). Couples now looking to get married are possibly looking for 2022 (if not 2021 weekdays), so 12 months is a relatively short time period.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Identifying the officiant will provide confirmation to the couple, officiant and venue that everything is 'booked', and allowing amended schedules where necessary will bring peace of mind to couples where plans have changed last minute

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should the arranged officiant not be able to carrying out the wedding, due to a unforeseen circumstance, it is unfair that the couple should have to disrupt all of their plans. Allowing another officiant to step in would save a lot of heartache and money!

Please share your views below:

I think so, yes, as long as the couple and venue are happy with this.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The duties can be carried out by one officer, but should there be a specific need for two then this should be allowed.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For some couples, religious elements may be an important part of their marriage, and these should be able to be part of the day even if through a civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

on the whole I would say yes, but there would some occasions where allowing public access may be important (forced marriages etc.)

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

To some extent, yes.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

I definitely believe weddings should be permitted to take place outside, particularl given the pandemic and the change to outdoor events! Being outside can allow couples to perhaps invite more people, as a venue may likley have a lower capacity.

I don't believe that it would ne necessary to allow weddings on bodies of water, or in the air.

With regards to private homes, I believe this would be important for couples where one or both of them are terminally ill, as they may wish to get married before they pass away and doing this in their private home may be the only way possible. However, allowing weddings in private homes raises the issue of allowing public access, and objections to weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think it necessarily should be just down to the officiant,.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If making it necessary for officiants to assess the location, they should be provided with the relevant means to do so

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this was something that could be done, and then valid for 12 months, say (so that all couples then wishing to get married there for the year don't need to go through this section of the process).

Please share your views below:

for exisiting venues, this could work alongside venues renewing their wedding licenses

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think so, but the words 'mother', 'father' should be avoided, as for people getting married who have lost their parents may find this upsetting - on what can already be an overly emotional day. Perhaps use 'witness' or 'guardian'

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where consent cannot be given, in cases of illness or somthing similar, perhaps the next of kin/closest relative could give the consent on their behalf?

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, to avoid people marrying for the wrong reasons (to be left something in a will etc.) but perhaps the interview doesn't need to be as extensive or rigorous

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps a sliding scale, or at least different amounts for different circumstances. For example, housebound is usually not by choice, whereas being detained in prison resulted from someone's choices.



Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

From my experience at a civil licensed venue, which has hosted a few humanist celebrations (not weddings though), I don't know whether the current law discourages people, but it definitely is seen as an arduous process!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Definitely does affect the availability, particularly now with backlog caused by Covid-19.

Locations is also affected.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD72-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-30 15:43:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

United Kingdom Society of Celebrants (UKSOC)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

When we got married (legally), 43 years ago, we wanted to have the ceremony at a specific church. Neither of us were resident in that parish and we had to go to Westminster to buy a special license.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am an Independent Celebrant. All of my client couples have had to postpone their special days - including my own son. It has been a very sad and stressful time for all of them.

The process for them is usually to book one of the short, legal ceremonies which every county is obliged to make available. These are often on a weekday and often involves them in taking time off work.

Once the legal marriage has taken place, I can officiate at a venue and on a date chosen by the couple. There is a huge backlog for appointments for the legal ceremonies, which has meant that even with weddings being back on the agenda - albeit with the 30 limit - couples are not going ahead with my service. All have postponed and given me a new date for next year.

So many couples have lost an awful amount of money through the process.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is an unnecessary limitation on the choice of the couple.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes life easier for everyone.

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Until early last year, when I returned to live in the UK, I was a Government Registered Independent Celebrant in New Zealand and I have seen that system work well.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It sounds like a great idea, but the question arises as to how people would be singled out for in-person interviews.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I believe that it should still be possible. Any alteration is making the process unnecessarily difficult for relevant couples. As long as the marriage is properly carried out and accurately registered I cannot see any reason why not.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At the moment, very few people would be aware that notices are displayed at all. With it being on line it is open to all. Of course, if there is a risk of harm to the couple, other means are justified.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples have more choice that way.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple have a reason to change their minds about the Officiant or the Officiant is unexpectedly unable to officiate, they do not then have to go through the same process again and incur extra costs.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This was the practice in New Zealand. The Officiant would have to sign the document and write the reason on the form. Each Celebrant had a number which would be on the form and if, for some reason, another Celebrant officiated then their number would also be recorded as well as their signature.

Please share your views below:

No, I think that it should have to be only in an emergency.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the family are from those areas and the banns are seen as a part of the tradition, it may be nice for the Minister to announce them in the way that people have become accustomed to. This should probably be at the choice of the couple. If that happens, I think it should also be done in whichever location the wedding is going to take place i.e. England or Wales. The problem would be if someone were to raise an objection to the marriage.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any connection. Whether a building is war damaged or not is surely irrelevant.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think this should be a matter of choice for the couple concerned in conjunction with discussion with the relevant Ministers.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

As guardians of their faith and trustees to the solemnity of marriage within it, I do believe that they should have such power and that they should be required to meet with each of the couple separately.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think that is a good idea in order to prevent sham/forced or illegal marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Any legislation should be aimed at making things easier. We should not throw the baby out with the bath water!

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be an agent who is accountable for safeguarding the legal aspects of the marriage.

### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that couples should have a variety of choice which enables them to have the ceremony that is most meaningful to them. A civil ceremony provides the basic legal necessities for a legal marriage and Registration Officers work largely to a limited script which is suited to many couples.

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

More than one just creates an unnecessary expense.

### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Availability of dates and times would then be more accessible.

### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that all Officiants need to have a legal registration. This would require a degree of control. Officiants should also be appropriately skilled to create and perform as well as to safeguard the legal integrity of the process. The governing authorities of the religious and non-religious organisations would need to look into whether those appointed have such skills.

### Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If there is no definition of a non-religious belief organisation there could be some trivialisation of the legal marriage process caused by groups which claim to be non-religious belief organisations without any justification.

Please share your views below:

There should most certainly be organisations which should not be accepted as non-religious belief organisations for the purpose of officiating at weddings.

These should be organisations which do not fit with the definition laid out above i.e. 'An organisation that professes a secular belief system that claims to explain humanity's nature and relationship to the universe, and to teach its adherents how they are to live their lives in conformity with the understanding associated with the belief system'.

With that definition in place, there is probably no need for a list of those who do not conform.

### Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiants are conducting marriages for members/worshippers from their own organisations then I believe they should be allowed to nominate suitable officiants from their own specified organisation. Those chosen should be registered as officiants for their own organisations.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If an organisation promotes anything unlawful or immoral they should most definitely be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure that I understand the question too well, but I think that organisations should probably be allowed some autonomy with this - as long as every officiant is registered and has the necessary skills and integrity to carry out a legal wedding within the boundaries of their religious or non-religious organisation and as long as they understand the legal obligations.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree. Every legal marriage should be traceable back to a registered officiant.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples deserve to have a choice and a say in the content of their ceremony. For most/many people, their wedding day is (if not the most important day) a majorly significant day in their lives. Of course, the legal observations must be a very important part, but other things which are personally important to couples can make the process mean so much more to them.

As an Independent Celebrant in New Zealand, I have often included children in the ceremony, lit candles in memory of recently deceased loved ones, performed elements which have been requested by the couple, told the couple's story and so on . These things make for a more personalised and treasured ceremony. Signing the legal documents and saying the legally required phrases can be beautifully incorporated into the service provided by Independent Celebrants.

Many couples employ an Independent Celebrant in the UK, but have to pay for a legal Registry Service on top.

Many Independent Celebrants have completed a course of training which assists them in creating and presenting a beautiful and meaningful ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, most definitely - they cannot just grab somebody from the congregation who attends regularly. Officiants must be suited to the job.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In New Zealand, all Independent Celebrants are required to answer three multiple choice questions every year to show that they are maintaining awareness of the legal requirements. That seems to work well.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise they should not be acting as officiants for their organisations.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree totally with the proposal.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should aim to be specialised and as such offer a focus on the particular desires of the couples to be married. There should be no clouding of what an officiant has to offer and couples should be able to narrow their choices by the definition of their officiant's registration.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although couples should be able to make their own choices, an officiant should have the integrity to know when their guidance is needed and - if that fails - the ability to decline a wedding if they believe it to be undignified and/or not reflecting the solemnity of the process.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That guidance is particularly important for the administrative processes involved. It would just require one official document which describes all of the legal obligations.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation should be required to submit proof that the officiant has not complied with such duties and responsibilities. Maybe there should be some recourse if an officiant feels that they have been wrongly accused.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should have the power to de-authorise unsuitable officiants. The officiant should be given information as to why such action has been taken and the officiant should have a right of reply if she/he feels that they have been wrongly accused.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should have the power to de-authorise unsuitable officiants. The officiant should be given information as to why such action has been taken and the officiant should have a right of reply if she/he feels that they have been wrongly accused

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not too sure about this one. There will be instances where officiants leave an organisation e.g. the church. In that case, they would become an Independent Celebrant without an organisation??

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All Officiants should be knowledgeable about their field - particularly the legal aspects. It is also important - particularly for Independent Celebrants - that couples should have access to choices. This can only be achieved if their officiant is aware of what can be made available to them.

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The whole point of the ceremony is for the two parties to consent to be married to each other. It is important that this is defined by there being a definite moment when they go from being single to married.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to work closely with the couple beforehand to ensure that the parties have the wedding that they desire. This should be within the boundaries of the law and attributing the appropriate dignity that a marriage ceremony deserves.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A religious marriage should be true to the beliefs professed by the couple and within the earthly guidelines and interpretation of that religion. Presumably, people who are chosen as officiants within religious organisations will be suited to make judgements about their specific practices.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples often want a religious content, but do not identify with any particular denomination. Sometimes one of the couple has a belief and the other is sympathetic to the partner's beliefs. One or two sentences within the ceremony can make a lot of difference.

Please share your views below:

Occasionally a divorcee is refused a religious marriage but wants to call upon God's blessing for their marriage.

Sometimes a couple may wish to have a particular religious reading or prayer.

A family member who holds religious beliefs which are respected by the couple might be asked to say a few words.

Some beautiful and popular music has religious overtones. I do not believe that couples should be denied the choice of such music. Ultimately, the couple should have as much choice as possible and their choices should be meaningful to them and their special ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not really understand the reasoning behind either this practice or the proposal to repeal it.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should be surrounded by family and friends. They are making a public commitment for those who matter most to them. They should be allowed to choose who is present.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Please share your views below:



No, the law should not make unnecessary limitations.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The law should not make unnecessary limitations.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that the law should make any rulings about this.

The organisations who own the land/property should be the ones to allow use by 'outsiders' or not.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not really understand this question. Should be approved by who? Sorry

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The importance, status and dignity of marriage has to be protected.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If left entirely to the Officiant there will probably be a very wide variety of ideas as to whether a location is safe and dignified. Guidance will help everyone to 'sing from the same hymn sheet'.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That complicates things unnecessarily and could also be unfair to some venues, who have traditionally missed out, because they were not 'licensed' prior to any changes.

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That would be a great record for the family. I am sure that most couples would want that.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be at the couple's choice.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Everything of any significance is electronically recorded nowadays. It makes it more 'official'.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legal marriage has to be within the law. If any of the rules are ignored it cannot be a proper marriage and should be void.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) I think that the mistake/s would have to be rectified retrospectively. That should be backed up by a signature.
- 2) Would the Officiant act as the only witness in this instance?
- 3) I think the marriage should be registered even if late.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples and Officiants should have an obligation to ensure that everything is done according to legislation.

Of course both parties have to consent to the marriage. Care needs to be taken in the preliminary stages to guard against forced marriages.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Circumstances sometimes arise where a couple are unable to cohabit for a period after marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a definite choice and commitment.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A three year time-limit on petitioning for nullity on the basis of lack of consent is very unfair on the wronged party.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the proposals in this document were to be put in place, it would simply be illegal - an offence.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

This is an area which I will need to learn about. I know that in New Zealand one of my Independent Celebrant friends officiated at a hospice and marriages for the terminally ill were made fairly simple.

I am aware that there are chapels in most hospitals, prisons, hospices. They are probably deemed suitable places for a marriage at the moment, but I am unsure whether bedside marriages take place in the UK. If they do not, I think that they should.

In certain cases couples should be allowed to rush the process through.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In this instance, the schedule should be issued asap.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Registrar General's licence is an unfair system.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage can then fit in with the wellbeing of the person with a terminal illness. Some days would probably work better than others. It would also help them to get all of the significant loved-ones together at an appropriate time.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Timing would then work as appropriate.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This could have worked well during the current pandemic.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise there will have to be a whole new document devoted to how couples would be eligible for the emergency provisions!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would eliminate unnecessary anxiety.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? Why make things complicated?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples already have ceremonies on board ship. It is just adding additional cost and making things more complicated for couples by making them have a separate legal procedure. A ship at sea is a dignified enough place to marry.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

A small wedding would be fine on a large luxury yacht, but I am thinking that freight container ships and the like would not be very dignified.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, they should give the name and registration number, but I am unsure why they would not be required to give the name of the officiant.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Deck Officers and Crew Members would be conveniently available.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There have to be guidelines!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because they are the ones who it is proposed will be authorised officiants for the vessel.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There could be. Maybe allowances could be made for officiants from religious organisations or non-religious belief organisations to conduct ceremonies in international waters at the request and expense of the couple?

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be a long cruise and they may be unsure about postage from abroad.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Travel costs money. Where else should it come from?

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

A couple where one is terminally ill may not have had the opportunity to put money by for a wedding. They want to make the commitment and compassion should call upon us to help.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some couples just want to make the commitment with 'no frills'. We should not take away a valued service.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think if guidelines are given to officiants, as to what should be deemed safe and dignified, it will not be necessary for registration officers to provide such a service.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it has to happen the money has to come from somewhere!

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Time and travel cost money. They would be providing a service.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Additional services require additional payment.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason why it should be any different.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a national service on compassionate terms.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a set fee for all officiants.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that the current law does not give couples the freedom of choice that they deserve. Particularly at this Covid time, there is a huge backlog of couples who have had to cancel or postpone their weddings and are now grappling for a date at the Registry Office. More choice in the number of officiants who are allowed to conduct a legal ceremony would alleviate that problem and allow freedom of choice for a wedding suited to each particular couple.

I think there would certainly be an increase in the number of couples wanting to get married if all of the proposals in the document were introduced. Weddings would be tailored to meet the needs of the couples through their choice of officiant and location.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The extreme cost involved in organising a wedding would be reduced through competition of venues and a greater number of Registered Officiants.

There have been some horror stories about the amount of money that has been lost through postponements and cancellations. Such expense is lamentable for couples who are embarking on married life, often with the expense of setting up home.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Low cost Register Office weddings provide an ideal way for some couples to get married. Not all couples want a grand affair, and the opportunity to have a small inexpensive legal marriage is the perfect choice for such couples.

Being allowed to marry in locations which have not undergone a pre-approval process is a win/win situation. Not only can it prove to be less expensive, but the location can be more meaningful to individual couples and, of course it allows for more choice.

Many couples choose to have a separate legally recognised wedding followed by (or after a special, non-legal, ceremony which is more suited to them). Negating the need for a separate legal ceremony by increasing the choice of officiants available to conduct a legal wedding again creates more choice for couples and also would mostly reduce the cost for them. At the moment, the individual needs and desires of couples are not recognised in law. The importance of choice, on a very important and significant occasion in their lives is marginalised and they are either forced to fork out excessive sums of money or to forego the wedding of their dreams.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There are currently some beautiful, safe and dignified venues for weddings which have not received approval because of unnecessary barriers. I know of one such venue which has not been approved because it is not considered to be a permanent structure. It is a beautiful marquee which has every amenity that couples could wish for. As a Celebrant I am asked to perform Ceremonies there by couples who love the site and would wish to have the whole ceremony take place there. They have to book the cheapest Register Office wedding, so that they are married by the time I conduct the ceremony that they want. They are always made aware that I cannot pronounce them husband and wife, wife and wife, husband and husband (or whichever titles they choose) and that I can make no pretence that the ceremony I conduct is legal.

Such venues cannot compete with venues which are pre-approved and couples have to accept that they will have to pay the higher prices if they want one wedding which encompasses the legal marriage procedure.

The cost of Registration Officer attendance does not cover individually created ceremonies which meet the preferences of some couples, due to the restrictions imposed on what a Registry wedding can include.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think that most of this consultation document can be answered by the proposal that couples should have more choice in the way that they get married. Predominantly it boils down to :

- 1) Expanding the variety of ceremonies that can be made available - a simple legal procedure, a legal ceremony which adheres to the beliefs/religion that is important to them or a legal ceremony which is tailored to be more personalised.
- 2) Allowing couples to choose (within the boundaries of safety and dignity) where they marry.

I do believe (particularly in a post-pandemic society) that if the proposals in this document are adopted as law, it may save some of the wedding related businesses which are on the verge of going under. There will almost certainly be an increase in the number of couples wanting to get married - for one thing, it will make it much easier for them to do so.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently I believe that local authorities are responsible for the running of Registry services. This would, of course, provide them with a source of revenue.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am very uncertain about the current role of Local Authorities, but I believe that they are responsible for Registry Offices and Registrars. If the proposals in this document are adopted, I believe that the job of a Registrar will alter slightly in that they will be involved in the administrative process of registering additional Officiants. I think that the number of Registry weddings may be slightly lower, but the revenue gained from the Officiant registrations will go some way to compensate.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Sometimes couples go elsewhere to get married because they cannot have the wedding that they want in England or Wales, under the current law.

Those travelling to England or Wales from overseas are often returning to get married in the presence of their family and friends.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think that the proposals outlined in this document - if adopted by law - will reduce the number of couples who feel the need to go elsewhere to get married. More people will stay at home and marry locally.

I am not sure that there will be much difference in the number of couples travelling to England or Wales, from overseas, to get married.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law does not provide any attraction for ships to register in the UK with regards to marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There could be a significant increase in the number of ships registering in the UK if legal marriages are allowed on ships that are registered here - as proposed in the document.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

- 1) Government and local authorities may lose out slightly, but there will be some compensation in the charge made to register Officiants.
- 2) There are a whole load of businesses which have grown up around weddings. These would be set to thrive on the increased number of weddings. There would also be a healthy competition which would protect the couples planning weddings.
- 3) Religious and non-religious belief organisations would benefit from the increased autonomy.
- 4) Independent Officiants would benefit as they would be allowed to conduct the whole wedding (including the legal bit) which would attract more couples to the personalised service that they offer.
- 5) Couples, above all, would benefit. They can make their own choices based on the criteria that are most important to them.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCY-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-30 15:47:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

no need for my responses to remain confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a



### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am an independent wedding celebrant who has found the vast majority of my work postponed to 2021 (at least) However the main issue is that celebrants ( independent ones in particular ) are not given parity with the church and registration services when it comes to the law and who can conduct ceremonies at this time of restrictions. There has been so much disparity in who, where and how couples can celebrate a marriage/ wedding ceremony. Also with who can conduct the ceremony and how many are allowed to be at the ceremony. Humanists, it would appear, (1430hrs 30/9/20) to have won a battle to allow their celebrants to have the same number at a ceremony as the church or register office ( as of today that is 15) but independents, who outnumber the humanist are reduced to 6...i put the date and time in this response as I am still waiting for an update to guidelines from the govt following HUK statements made on the 29/9/20. It is a hot mess, and couples are being denied the right to choose. Celebrants are being denied the right to work, and the chancellor seems to think we should all go and get a new job because we are in an unviable industry !

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer below

In the age of technology this can be done on line, however if a couple should have to be resident, is 3 days not an option?  
It will allow couples who travel from abroad to get married the freedom of spending more time resident in an area for their honeymoon, rather than to have to be there prior to the wedding

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A much better idea

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes as along as all possible precautions are taken to ensure the safety of all parties concerned. That there is no possibility for sham or forced marriages and that both parties have capacity.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

agreed

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no reason to change this, most people do marry within 12 months, however provision could be made in the event of another global catastrophe that it can be extended without cost to the couple.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most couples who are using a celebrant would know their officiant, same within churches/ religious arenas

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Please share your views below:

Maybe provision made for the exceptional circumstances local lockdowns present?

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no comment to make

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no comment to make

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

no comment to make

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should and this would be the same for any officiant

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes, either via video link or in person , with the option to insist on an unperson consultation

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Parity in the eyes of the law for all couples is achieved this way.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A basic requirement, totally agree

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the religious officiants are all given the same rights under law, R/O's would not be required to attend the venue, freeing them up for other duties

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Having 2 is a waste of time, it frees them up for other duties

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

agreed

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

You can list Independent celebrant organisations  
training bodies / membership organisations based and working out of England/ Wales ( not just with members in these countries)

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes absolutely, the sanctity of marriage is important and is not a trivial pursuit, to promote immoral or unlawful acts should result in the organisations being excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes, agreed

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

agreed

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

agreed, very strongly AGREED!

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely agree

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to know more about what is meant by a conflict of interest here. But in principle my answer is yes

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A person is one or the other, you cannot be both or more.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst fun can and should be had at a wedding ceremony, it should still be carried out so as not to make a mockery of the union.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance but not unyielding legislation

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should lie with the GRO personally, FOLLOWING consultation with the nominating organisation.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

BUT i think a probationary period should be served first and then it can be unlimited

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

totally agree CPD is vital

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good plan

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes...allows for individuals to create the ceremony they want

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

will allow independent celebrants the freedom to include religion as a matter of course if the couple desire it, and will allow those with some slight religious leanings to express them in a civil ceremony with a r/o if they so desire

Please share your views below:

no views

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no comments to add

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is another check and balance when looking at sham and forced marriages, behind 'closed/ locked doors' might be an issue

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

weddings should be able to take place where ever a couple choose

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this allows for a private home to be used

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the religious ceremonies should take place in religious venues, if the couples choose, but it is unfair to impose solely non religious ceremonies in a religious setting. It would go against their beliefs and upset too many...and the same in reverse

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessarily, some venues have been holding ceremonies for a long time, both civil and celebrant led, it should not be done to an officiant to now decide if the venue is suitable or not

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The venue should submit documentation

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I know there will be problems, but I do not know what they will be in terms of the law as it stands

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no views as to which vessels this would apply to

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

no idea!

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

the current law discourages and prevents couples from having the type of ceremony they would like but I don't know if it prevents them from marriage

I do think more couples will marry if the proposals come into force as they will be able to have the type of ceremony they want and celebrate their love in their own way.

I do not have any evidence to present

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Post lockdown it is very difficult to get hold of the registration services, and they are offering very limited service. There was limited service for a registration only ceremony beforehand but now it is nigh on impossible in some areas the registration only ceremony is a good price, but is very poorly advertised so most opt for more expensive ceremonies and they vary hugely dependent on area and time of day/ day of week etc

2. Again a massive variation amongst registration districts and celebrants

3. No idea what current costs are

4. Often cheaper on the officiant front

5. can for some double their costs, depending on how and where they decide to have the separate legal ceremony. Law reform will remove this unnecessary cost

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I think r/o weddings will be easier as more people look elsewhere, so freeing up the time and space at the office for those who still wish to marry there.

2. there will be one cost, the registration for the licence and the officiant cost combined , rather than the 2 separate costs that would double the overall cost of the wedding

3. more money to be put towards the day of their choosing OR to the honeymoon or just an out and out saving from one of the most expensive days of a couple's lives

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

can't comment on these costs

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

can't comment on these costs

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

They are overwhelmed and antiquated trying to work in a system that is not fit for purpose

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It can only free people up, i think they are understaffed as it is, so would not result in job losses, but would create the space for diversity of their roles

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is a total pain having to travel out of area to marry, i did because my local register office was not open on the day i wanted to marry.

For those coming from overseas, they have to be resident in an area far longer than they might like before a wedding and this cuts down on their honeymoon time afterwards

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Frees up people to travel and to marry where'd they would like, with minimal fuss

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I think couples will be better off as will venues. Officiants will have to pay a fee, but the potential earnings far outweigh the initial outlay. Govt will get more money as more people will marry

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCS-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-09-30 17:06:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Androulla Veliotou Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is not applicable to my position

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This is not applicable to my position

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is not applicable to my position

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is not applicable to my position

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My business specializes in processing legal documents, mainly certificates of no impediment to marriage, that are used as part of the necessary documentation to get married overseas. The documents need to be processed through the Foreign Office Consular Services for Apostilles, they then need translation and further Overseas Consular Legalisation services.

The number of couples that marry overseas are in the thousands.

Couples are required to have their documents available and processed 12 weeks ahead of the marriage date.

Certificates of no impediment take 4 weeks to be issued.

The result has been that during Covid 85% of couples have had to cancel their overseas wedding due to not being able to obtain a certificate of no impediment, subsequently further cancellations due to the registry office backlogs.

The latter delays have caused tremendous difficulty to the couples themselves, who have paid for their overseas wedding in full and have a party booking of 50 people traveling abroad all with hotel reservations.

The registration law does not permit for e-applications for this life event.

In these uncertain times I receive hundreds of phone calls from couples asking me what their position is.

I speak on behalf of hundreds of couples, and as a vital link between airlines, hotels, consular services.

Please simplify the procedure of application for Certificates of No Impediment by facilitating e-applications. These documents underpin the decision of where to get married or how.

In the internet age, and with the requirement for social distancing, the registration law should be forward looking, should facilitate life as it has become.

E-applications for certificates of no impediment is a service that is needed, it is not a luxury. The sooner that it can be implemented, the sooner citizens will be able to plan their life event with greater certainty, and the business sector will benefit as a result.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a stabilizing life circumstance and it is important to know that those who enter it have had a stable living environment for 7 days.

#### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People should only be able to give notice online or by post. Personal attendance is not required at all. In the same way that you can apply for a passport online with verification, then it should be possible to give notice of your intention to marry online and for certificates to be dispatched centrally from the General Register Office, in the same way that other life event certificates are dispatched.

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

The notices of intent to marry should be like statutory declarations that are legally binding on the couple and therefore should be valid immediately, or within a minimum period.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews can take place remotely if necessary.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It is absolutely appalling that in instances of nationals exempt from immigration control that they cannot give notice outside England and Wales.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should apply to notices given in Scotland.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is impossible for couples to know who the officiant will be on the day of their civil marriage overseas, this is usually whoever is available either in the local Town Hall as a local councillor, mayor, registrar, or judge.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant's name is an unnecessary complication on this document. It doesn't serve any purpose and hasn't been a requirement to date because it doesn't serve any purpose. The officiant's name appears on the Marriage Certificate, and the Certificate of No Impediment to marriage expires and is withheld after marriage, therefore the officiant's name is nothing but red tape and bureaucracy and not a simplification at all on this document.

Please share your views below:

Any registered officiant / legal officiant is competent, so please leave these details out.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The constitutions of all jurisdictions should be mutually recognized and respected/ permitted.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published online by the issuing authority.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Civil law should be primary. The church and civil law should not act as separate entities or else discrimination may ensue.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes; there should be no discrimination in the requirements for either party.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no separation in the religious/ civil requirements.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A registration officer is not a legal person, therefore, once the relevant certificates of no impediment are obtained, any registered officiant should be able to conduct the marital ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"non religious" is sufficient

Please share your views below:

All non denominational organisations

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Unlawful or contrary to public policy/ morality by definition should be expressly excluded

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes. The couples should have the choice of both.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Individual rights of self-determination shouldn't be obstructed by the state.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The more nominations a person has, the more bona fide they are likely to be.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should lie with the General Register Office which should be the over-arching authority, but the removal of the license should be meted by the relevant organisation that nominated them. This will act as a deterrent.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The authorisation should be a subscription that will deter "chancers".

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no differentiation between civil and religious requirements. The church should not be able to have separate requirements. The law is the same for everyone.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be clear that a civil wedding is not a religious wedding and vice-versa and if the requirements are identical, then there should be no provision for religious content in a civil wedding.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should determine their requirements and not be disadvantaged by the law.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should be able to determine if it favours an open doors approach.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Or officiants may be scuba divers.

Please share your views below:

Public safety and officiant safety should dictate any limitations.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safety should be the main criterion.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If religious and non religious cannot be distinguished then they lose their value; therefore they ought to remain separate.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office in conjunction with the Health & Safety Executive should produce the guidelines.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be available from the date of enforcement of the updated law.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All three steps are legal requirements and in the absence thereof the marriage cannot stand in law.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If cohabitation is not an objective, then marital status, which implies a joining together of two persons into an entity, shouldn't be sanctioned.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would disadvantage women and children.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Health & Safety

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Health & Safety. The General Register Office does not have jurisdiction in international waters.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't agree with weddings in international waters because the law of England and Wales cannot be enforced.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The law of the country in whose continental shelf the vessel is sailing must be observed or it is a sovereign violation.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

International waters fall under the jurisdiction of the state's continental shelf and the law of the sea and not under Registration Law.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location may be remote and the officers should be remunerated according to the level of difficulty presented/ access/

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I can assure you that UK couples resident in the UK but getting married overseas have cancelled their weddings due to current registration law obstructing them from obtaining a certificate of no impediment to marriage/ giving notice of their intention to marry electronically.  
The lack of e-services makes the current registration law archaic.  
E-services should amount to a civic right.  
Couples should be facilitated to marry and not obstructed in their choice of location or date as a result of registration law.  
The ability to apply online will promote weddings in any setting.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

By providing options, each couple will set a budget. Choice is democratic and so is access.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I cannot emphasize enough, from my professional vantage point as legal document advisor and a hub for travel agents how online application for documents will revolutionize the weddings sector. It will allow couples to plan, to feel that their day matters in law, it will abolish at a stroke the frustration that couples feel at not being able to access a registry office, or of being given dates into the future that do not fall in line with their plans; many UK couples cannot afford a wedding celebration and a honeymoon and the possibility of combining both, and going away with friends on a holiday to celebrate is a very attractive prospect to thousands of couples, 85% of whom have had to cancel their wedding this year, and the majority have done so because of the current registration law. Affordability and ease of access is key. The legal documents are the foundation to any wedding in any location, and obstruction to obtaining the same is uniform to any strata of society.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities do not have a streamlined national approach to taking applications; they follow and implement guidelines locally, which creates enormous disparity of citizen choice and equity. Online applications are a democratic and equitable and cost efficient method to promoting citizens civil rights. Local authorities will keep their venues safe by conducting interviews online if required and they should have a proportionate return on applications from their jurisdictions made directly to the GRO

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Covid Safety
2. If the applications for certificates of no impediment to marriage are taken centrally but a percentage return is paid to each jurisdiction it frees up officials to do other meaningful work which is sponsored by that contribution.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My experience derives from my business which is a hub for weddings involving Consular services, couples, travel agents, etc.  
UK couples have been devastated this year by not being able to have access to apply for their certificates of no impediment.  
They have cancelled their weddings.  
A change in the registration law permitting access online would ensure that couples have control.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My experience derives from my business which is a hub for weddings involving Consular services, couples, travel agents, etc.  
UK couples have been devastated this year by not being able to have access to apply for their certificates of no impediment.  
They have cancelled their weddings.  
A change in the registration law permitting access online would ensure that couples have control.

I cannot stress how disadvantaged couples are in hitting a wall due to the lack of availability of registration services due to Covid. These documents are long due an overhaul and should be able to be offered online.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The law of the sea prevails by virtue of each country's continental shelf.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Businesses are counting the cost of the lack of e-access to notices.

My business income fell by 85% but will rise by 50% if e-access is made available.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUZ-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-06 10:31:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Reach Court Farm Weddings

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 7: Location



Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst I agree that the wedding ceremony laws may need modernising. I believe that at this time, whilst we are living through a pandemic that has impacted many industries greatly, that this would further hit the wedding venue industry and other wedding suppliers with many at home weddings taking place resulting in a greater loss to the economy.

It will also allow for unregulated events to take place in private homes which are not enforcing COVID guidelines and contributing to the spread of the virus.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCD-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-07 13:11:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
(Prof) Chris Barton

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Family Mediators Association (a Vice-President); Emeritus Professor of Family Law (Staffordshire University)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::  
N/A

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not confidential; were it so I might consider it potentially self-defeating and intrusive to be asked 'why?!'

N.B. I have not read every word of the 438 pp CP (which omission may be reflected in my answers/non-responses) whilst appreciating the 35 pp Summary - and much enjoying the 'At a Glance'. I wonder if the last has gone to schools?

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED] I wed under a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate and Licence at the now defunct [REDACTED] Register Office, [REDACTED]

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am convinced by the Paper's arguments (as with many of its other proposals ) at paras 4.13-41 in this case.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Covers all bases and reasonable expectations.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Well. three days would suit wedding tourists here whose time is limited. One would hope that, as with divorce, appropriate thought has been given to the decision before setting it in motion.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews only would spare the need to make 'exception' judgements about possible shams, etc .

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Stet; consistent with the further liberalisation envisaged elsewhere in the Paper.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I take the force of the example provided by para 4.84, but wonder about the procedure for verifying (or not) the alleged risk. However, the proposed exception is consistent with the later proposal for closed door ceremonies.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No view.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

it is consistent with the Paper's proposed shift from places to people I suggest that such requirement will, at least at first, come as a surprise to the affianced who will, I suspect, still be more concerned with venue.

(The amendment for a substitute is surely acceptable.)

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Uncontroversial, surely.

Please share your views below:

Not unreasonable for the couple to have a change of mind as to their MC, I suggest.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As per para 4.134.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

A matter for the C of E

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. para 4.144 convinces.
2. Unlike CQ 15 (above) this not merely a private matter for the C of E as it goes to marital suitability and one therefore suggests it be a requirement.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As for CQ 16, point 2, above

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I disapprove of perpetuating wedding law's Anglican centrality. But, in the Paper's spirit of choice, if the reading of the Banns (if not common licences) brings pleasure to the parties, congregations and such - not to mention cinema goers and Mills and Boon readers - why not?

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One would expect no other.

I've read the Intro to Ch 5, but really dislike 'officiant' cos it sounds made up and 'officious' comes to mind. 'Celebrant' on the other hand smacks of 'celebrate' and if one must have one word for the MC, then, despite what one learns from para 5.3, 'celebrant' has a better ring about it.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Can't get too excited, but 'Registration Officer' doesn't sound right for a God gig.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

5.37; 'The responsibility of the superintendent registrar is simply to be present'. I always feel a bit sorry for the redundant one, as 'she' simpers silently. Clearly a waste of public resources.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem to follow.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem to follow.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems unexceptionable

Please share your views below:

If so, I suggest that, as with the N-RBO issue generally, it be left to Government - let 'them' take the weight, not the Law Commission! Having said that, one would agree with the points raised in paras 5.100-102. Subject to that, one sees no reason why such as political parties should not qualify - they seem to fit the Hodkin definition above.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. If there must be an arbitrary limit than paras 5.96-8 make a good case for 20.
2. Is not 'sincerely' superfluous' here? Isn't the expression 'a sincerely held belief' as tautological as 'an INsincerely held belief' would be oxymoronic?!

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Well, I think we know what the Gov attitude would be. But were the actual wedding gigs themselves not so tainted, I can think of no valid reason to ban them from nominating officiants. And 'promoting purposes that are unlawful' could cover any group which campaigns to de-criminalise the presently illegal, as opposed to encouraging it whilst it remains illegal. 'Contrary to public policy [and certainly] morality simply beg the question.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Suppose so, if the couple are happy.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm all for openness in such matters.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I look forward to the day; these currently-supernumary gigs have been among the best 'weddings' I have enjoyed as a guest (and it must have been anticlimactic for the couple to attend the RO as well). Rather more importantly, they seem to have been appropriately and thoughtfully customised by the parties as assisted by the, ugh, 'officiant's' experience. (A bit like like-minded funerals.) It will be a good day for marriages - far more important than for weddings - when they are the real thing. Incidentally, so far as I am aware, there is no research on the fate of marriage by type of opening ceremony chosen - in terms of cost, religious, etc - though I was surprised to read somewhere that an American study claimed to have found that the more spent on the latter, the longer the former.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure. It would test the libertarianism of allowing the whackier religious/N-RBO a free hand in this respect. What training do, eg, scientology MC's have?

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does this discriminate in favour of the other groups? I don't understand the argument advanced in the penultimate sentence of para 5.139, so don't see why IO's should be treated differently. As for the last sentence at that para, I'm happy with a given non-affiliated IO if the couple who chose her are. And if a Gillick-competent minor - a chosen child of the couple, perhaps - can satisfy 2 and 3 - then let the 3 people concerned have their way. Why no upper limit if you're going to be against about it?!

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is a non-sequitur - both these groups should be free to 'do well by doing good'. Profit and belief are not necessarily inconsistent. Let the market prevail.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Two separate points are conflated here

1. What 'conflict of interest' do you have in mind?
2. In the interests of non-discrimination all 3 groups should be permitted to profit financially. Again, let the market prevail. Leave it to the couple (or their parents!).

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I'm imagining the same chap doing the 3 different gigs in one day -John Cleese when he used to be funny, perhaps. Changing gear in the taxi, scanning the next script -and his watch...

Can't take the question seriously - sorry.

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

How? It begs the question. If a couple of deep-sea divers want to be wed in their gear by a similarly-attired IO - let them.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What 'guidance'? Would it be obligatory? Nothing wrong with a book of helpful tips, as for reception speeches, certainly.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems self-evident, but if the parties are happy with the officiant I hope it would satisfy her organisation.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Where the GRO thinks the organisation has failed to deal justly with a party's complaint, perhaps. What about the converse - should a NO be able to appeal to the GRO after her organisation has sacked her?

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who else? -but if the parties were happy, and the wedding legal, I would be reluctant to see it as the state's business.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Well, judges and others reach compulsory retirement age! But, again, if the parties are happy -so be it. Please see my answer to CQ 31.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No point in CPD otherwise.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 , 3 and 4 OK; I am particularly relieved, as a recovering stammerer, by the proposal to remove the 'no impediment' promise!

2. 'should be able'? -not mandatory?

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Can officiants be trusted to ensure that the parties' initial ideas will be tailored down to ensure the required 'dignity and solemnity' and compliance with 'public policy and morality'?

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Innocuous. -and if they want it, why not?

Please share your views below:

Anything they want.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If they want it, why not?

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Well, to do otherwise might deter couples from choosing their own gardens and such. And it might keep the more outre efforts secret - you won't want the press snapping away at S'n'M dungeon weddings. I guess the parties should have a right to privacy. The requirement for witnesses should suffice.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant's duties re solemnity and dignity plus the public policy and morality requirements might limit choice in practice.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

If they so wish and can find a willing officiant.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such restrictions would unduly limit the parties' choice.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such is consistent with her proposed duties.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

'Safe', certainly. As regards 'dignity' the parties will hope to find an officiant to agree to what they want - perhaps the more outre parties will be able to find an equally liberally- inclined officiant.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guide or instruct?

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An unnecessary bureacratic refinement - it should be easy to find an officiant for a 'frequently' used location

Please share your views below:

If there must be such, the GRO presumably. But an unnecessary layer.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

At the option of the parties, yes.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely unexcpctionable.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's the future.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Littel point in having such fundamental and desirable rules otherwise. There might be a case for a breach of No 4 (and possibly 3) rendering the event a non-qualifying ceremony - they seem more of an affront than 1 and 2.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sufficiently less fundamental than Q57 above - and the presence of the officiant would compensate for the absence of witnesses - but would there be no consequences at all? If not, what would be the point of the requirements?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but it would involve difficulties regarding the burden of proof for 1 b i with (usually) the man, seeking to evade such as financial remedies, claiming the woman was equally complicit and the latter deying it.

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Pass!

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Would the parties' own belief(s), , one way or the other, about the status of their relationship be relevant?

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but with a discretion to reject on the basis of, eg, honest affirmation by initially-reluctant parties.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such egregious and harmful behaviour should indeed be criminal.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No knowledge.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I suppose it is particularly sensible to check that they have capacity and are not being unduly pressured.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason for a lack of uniformity here.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We're all suffering from a terminal illness - life - and a limit is required.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not if one is still in prison. hospital or housebound.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A reasonable alternative - marriage must be encouraged for those who want it. What some people are really interested in as the number of guests and I suppose as many as are wanted could tune in remotely.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds reasonable.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would be harmless, popular for some and boost commerce.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Why not if it's what the parties want.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Pass,

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why the difference? As I understand it the job of a deck officer is to keep the ship safe, and, in point 1, if the parties want their sea-mates non-deck officers Bo'sun Billy or Ordinary Seaperson Olga to tie their (reef) knot in the same way that Billy and Olga may one day be so authorised as IO's under point 2 - why not?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A desirable consistency.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be a sufficiently-fundamental flaw - but does it not border on non-qualifying?

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There will be when it's allowed!

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Extra work justifies it, but should there be a discretion to waive?

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Like those with a Blue Badge, the sick aren't necessarily poor - discretion to waive, wholly or in part?

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yep - low-level gigs/elopements should be allowed for those who want them.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unexceptionable.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above,

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither - discretionary. See CQ 76

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems fair.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Opinions only (no data evidence) I'm afraid.

1. If the current (wedding) law deters any couples from marrying I suggest that, in most cases, they are unwisely prioritising the kick-off over the match itself. Whilst I respect religiously-inclined same-gender couples who abjure marriage because their Church refuses to wed them\*, and hope that N-RBO/Independent Officiant gigs will come, I suggest that, given the possibility of add-ons to current ceremonies and free-standing additional ones, that any fans of, eg the latter two, who won't use the current law are likely to be unduly precious Guardianistas. If they're shacking up/procreating anyway, I hope they're au fait with comparative marriage/cohabitation/parental law and have made an informed choice.

\*Some of whom may, admirably you may think, abstain from cohabitation/sex, seeing them as being reserved for marriage

2. I guess there are two issues here.

Firstly, there are those couples who go through a customised ceremony of their own choosing which could only result in a non-qualifying marriage and (unusually, surely) do not do the legal thing as well. I doubt that many of such are labouring under any delusion about its lack of legal recognition, though I suppose some innocents may be being conned by the other party. Maybe some Gúardiastas would find in the new proposals sufficient options for them to wed legally when they wouldn't under the current law, though I guess for some the objection is to marriage itself ('patriarchy...yawn...hetero-normativity...zzzzzz').

Secondly, religious gigs catering to, eg, Moslems. The proposals earlier in the CP would clearly bring more brevity and clarity. But what constitutes a sufficient event - whatever it might be - to make the marriage at least void clearly needs getting through to the relevant communities, particularly perhaps the women therein.

\*\*\*\*\*

I take this opportunity to make some final points. Firstly, and for what little it may be worth, I think the CP (like the earlier Law Com marriage stuff) is a terrific piece of work; erudite, comprehensive and as accessible to the reader as its inevitable complexity permits. That complexity made the electronic

navigation methods supplied particularly helpful to me.

As a student of wedding law the Paper was a treat. The subject is an academic (not a practitioner's) lawyer's paradise. But I'm not convinced its reform is the best use of the Commission's brain power. I say this for two reasons. Firstly, it is only about the entry to marriage, not marriage itself. Secondly, despite its current complexity, very few intended couples encounter difficulty in accessing it validly. The RO/ their 'church/ the owners of the approved premises make sure of that. Finally, I think for many people - perhaps too many! - their main priorities for the event are such as stag and hen nights, clothes, guests, reception (food, drink, speeches, seating arrangements, disco) and honeymoon. These priorities are pretty much currently achievable other than in times of national emergency. Perhaps there was an innocent time when consummation would have been a novel attraction, or - when the couple moved straight from their parents' houses to live together for the first time - a more relaxed opportunity for sex.

I imagine that respondents will be largely made up people like myself and members of special interest groups which latter will supply pro formas for the purpose. I suggest you attach very little weight to any of them -very much including my own - in the final Report because you will know more about the subject than practically any of us!

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No informed view but I suspect that Marriage Act 1994 use will (continue?) to erode recourse to all the rest.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think weddings should be available (as an option) at as modest a price as possible and such use encouraged; all-in, the kick-off for my daughter's and son-in-law's happy marriage cost some £400 (including the £200 which, in a moment of weakness, I put behind the bar.) If there's money available, put it to the marriage, not the wedding.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No informed view.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No informed view.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No informed view.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No informed view

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I hope they are well-informed about the lex loci celebrationis of their chosen country.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1 Well - perhaps the scheme would enable them to enjoy here the sort of gig that they currently 'have' to go abroad for.

2. Perhaps it would make E and W more attractive than the other contender for weddings where the couples are from different countries.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No informed view.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No informed view.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No informed view.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDU5-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-07 17:35:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both civil registry marriage ceremony and a later spiritual ceremony tailored to our beliefs.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems outdated and suited to a way of life we no longer follow. It simply doesn't make sense in a modern world where travel and movement are so different to when the original laws etc were framed.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above. This seems much more in tune with modern circumstances.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

The only valid constraint for is is the admin time required to ensure procedures can happen.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes. If nothing else, COVID has shown how much can be done remotely.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Why ever not in an age where we are increasingly familiar with remote or on-line ways of doing things?

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again this feels like something from the 18th or 19th century and how would it be displayed on-line?

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems wholly reasonable and if reasonableness is a significant requirement, then why not follow it.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again seems reasonable

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why ever not? Again this seems reasonable.

Please share your views below:

Just officiate when the original celebrant at very short notice cannot attend.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not for me to say but fits with devolution and national autonomy within the UK

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No opinion but feels outdated

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No opinion other than it makes sense to do these things

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some check beforehand which applies across the board

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, there has to be some kind of official register

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too biased towards worship as a criterion of spiritual practice and belief.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Either provided individuals are registered within the organisation to officiate

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too intrusive

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have so many questions and concerns about CPD

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Reference to God or equivalent terminology and any spiritual language which refers to a greater reality, specific prayers or chants etc

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is an essentially private occasion

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Either you can anywhere or you can't. No half measures.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if weddings are thought of primarily as private occasions

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

These restrictions feel out of date and as if they come from another age when things were done differently

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's the officiant's right to say whether they will officiate at any given location, not that the location is approved

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why dignified? That is a massive assumption. Safe perhaps.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above on the assumption about dignified

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Usual H&S, credibility of venue etc

Please share your views below:

I thought there was an existing license system

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why the parents' details unless the couple wish it?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some kind of official act seems reasonable to create a marriage rather than a relationship

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't know enough to comment but the essence of these proposals is to frewe up unnecessary and out of date restrictions

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems a sensible check in possibly intense and stressful circumstances

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A new system to accord with current, modern sensibilities

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why ever not?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not in my view

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not have a fixed time limit?

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

no opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

no opinion

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

no opinion

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUW-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-07 18:59:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Self employed wedding celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree to remote interview, but for background ID checks and individual interview in person where necessary to prevent sham or forced marriage

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Continue with present regulations

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Conflict of interest, change of mind by officiant or either of the couple to be married if conflict or disagreement arises

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to 1 and 2

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree separate declarations and both required to attend

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For legally binding marriage yes, for unlicensed wedding ceremony no

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Option for celebrants to be able to provide this service as registration officers

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Unnecessary

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Unlawful in terms of sham, underage, arranged or forced marriage, yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Uncertain of the benefit of such a nomination

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees charged for such services support individual ministers and celebrants when their organisation provides no source of income, same as ministers and celebrants for funerals

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Potential guidance around legality not ceremony

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No special rules on any type of religious or non religious ceremony

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Hospital and hospice as well

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Parents not a necessity

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1,2,3 yes

4 no

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 iii no

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How do you stop a presumption such as this? Why stop it?

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Where possible

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Difficult to gauge, but probably

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too restrictive and not costed according to multiple varying circumstances

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither, fees should be on an individual case basis

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Prevents people getting married as current choices are restrictive

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again restrictive and potentially costly to the couple who are marrying, especially point 5

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUB-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-08 16:24:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A - Personal

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, although I am engaged to be married and would like to just complete a handfasting - rather than a registry to make it legal

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We are currently facing the option of having 2x ceremonies, the legal wedding and then the handfasting. This to me is sad, and the rules outdated. I want to get married to my partner in a woods, surrounded by the trees, my family and the spirit of my ancestors!

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have only recently become engaged but at present we are not planning anything as who knows when this situation will end.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am fairly on the fence with this question.

The current ruling prevents people from total shotgun weddings, but then on the other hand, why should everyone know I am due to be married?!

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems a good idea

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps there could be stages/options?

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think consultations are good to "vet" the couple to prevent sham/forced marriages. But then we already have a consultation and they still happen!

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Sounds good to me

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely need to ensure the safety of the couple. I am worried about my name being on a public forum, especially beside my partners name (as they will then have my new name!) and the internet can be accessed from any country.

Also worried this may help facilitate fraud. I am not sure the information needs to be made public?

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand the question!

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, perhaps at the time of consultation, so effectively officiants work in pairs

Please share your views below:

I think as long as the couple are happy as well as the officiant this can only be a good thing.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should either be changed to allow for all religions, or perhaps have a separate publication for non Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I really don't mind what people do in churches - I just wish to get married, to my partner... IN A WOODS! Not a building. Each to their own!

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion either way, not my religion and I believe they should proceed how their followers choose.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Please see answer for question 16

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

As above - for Anglican weddings please consult people of that religion

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as the officiant can be of a matching religion

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it should be up to the officer themselves... they may be happy with a simple handfasting but disagree if someone wants to be blessed with the blood of a sacrifice.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unless they are lonely

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is restrictive to those who follow the religion of the Church... there are plenty of us who believe and follow the old religion - and we should be able to honour our religion with our own officiants who also honour and respect our values

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as people are registered it should not matter

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Wow... this would open a whole bag of worms with "Pagans"

Please share your views below:

Well, the list could go on. Perhaps discuss this with the Pagan Federation or equivalent to other "religions"

Non religious people should not be penalised.... they should have the option to legally marry how they chose!

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be good, people can then have access to the officiant list and could then chose their closest by distance or religious beliefs.

(Much like an officiant at a funeral - the lady who did my Mums catered it to our beliefs completely - even though she may not have shared them herself, why can't it just be like that!!!)

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Perfect

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Everyone should do due diligence.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The church requires payment- why can't others!? As long as it doesn't grossly exceed and the couple have agreed to it, then why not enable people to make a business of making other people happy on their big days!

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If someone is happy to officiate a pagan wedding without the views, and the couple agree then I see no problem.

Personally I would seek out someone with my same beliefs to complete the ceremony.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - do not make them all the same, else what's the point in asking all these questions!?

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends who conducts the investigation

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, yes please!

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Allow us to tailor to suit, don't try a one size fits all

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A handfasting ceremony - its not even a new thing, it was the DONE THING back in the day. It has just been pushed out by the Church (the same church that no doubt sits on a previously sacred ground and they have just bulldozed their way over the belief system)

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why should I have 2... why can't you recognise my belief system.... ~

Why is this even being discussed?

Why has it not been changed.

(Yes I have now answered too many questions politely and am getting irate at the whole situation, I do not follow a NEW RELIGION - we were all "Pagan" once... I follow the old religion, the religion of your ancestors. But the Church wants to erase all knowledge of their disgusting processes trying to eradicate the knowledge some of us will keep shouting about!)

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't care for other people to know my business. I would be more than happy for it to be me and my partner with an officiant and our dogs. (My partner on the other hand wishes to invite family! each to their own!)

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IN THE TREES!!!

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All of the above! Sod a stuffy room - I want to see the sky!

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Indeed, private lands should be allowed (as long as you have permission from the landowner of course)

### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that if the couple, the officiant and the venue are happy with what has been proposed then go for it. If you are Christian and wish to get married in the woods, go for it.

If you are a witch and wish to get married in the church then as long as the church is OK with it then why not (I mean they most likely wouldn't be happy but again - each to their own)

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes and no - if our officiant didn't wish to climb a tree to perform the ceremony - I would just try and find a different one!

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Indeed... on the edge of a crumbly cliff - not clever

and who defines "dignified"?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends how anal they would be about the rules.

Again - what defines dignified, because I've seen brides in churches wearing virtually lingerie... that to me is not dignified but is allowed to happen!

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Just log where people are getting married, then collate the information and then work out if it would be easier to just say "this place is approved - Ripon Druids Temple for example, in fact all the stone circles and previously used ceremonial grounds should by default be allowed!

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if secure!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Eurgh - why be so restrictive!?

You can tell this country is ruled by the Church!

Lemme skip off into a daisy field and marry my man!

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- 1 . Who made the mistake? that would affect my answer
2. Why can't our Gods and the officiant be witness?
3. Sure - but make the register available to all religions and allow us to state them

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Let people be people!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Do it - or don't

Sitting on the fence is uncomfortable

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No bloody clue!

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

If someone finds themselves in prison then they should not get any benefits, they should have to wait until they have done their time!

terminal illnesses, housebound and hospitalised should have the option to fast track marriages and still be allowed to complete them how they chose (maybe even letting them be in the hospital gardens if they so chose!)

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but with a pinch of salt. Let them have their final wish (as long as the one who will remain is happy with the union)

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as within UK waters.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ooo now that is a lovely idea

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Must be registered to dock at a UK port.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

It should be up to the officiant and the couple.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is within peoples means.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Bless them.... fees should be waived - let them have their day!

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a one set charge, which should be reasonable and not penalise people for their choices.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should remain the same charge as above. Effectively a "venue tax"

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Fine - but I'll take a high priestess any day! (otherwise I'd just go to the registry office!)

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

(How many words in one question?!)

one set fee.... not a high one... one reasonable set bloody fee!

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

You have 2 real choices for weddings -

1. religious ceremony in a religious building
2. non religious ceremony in a registry office which cannot incorporate any religious/belief systems.

it is too restrictive and not indicative of modern (or in my case old) views.

Many people chose to not get married which can leave them in a black hole. the second option is to have a fake ceremony and top it up with a trip to the registry office... this is ridiculous and unnecessary!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Registry offices can be lovely and cheap and allow for those with little to no funds to legally get married. But they are also too restrictive - if the proposed changes are allowed then the costs should be kept to a minimum to prevent only the rich having handfasting ceremonies etc.

Marriages should be reasonably priced and accessible to all... in whatever fashion they wish

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

sod number 3 - let us have the ability to tailor our weddings just the same as we tailor a funeral.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Weddings are ridiculously priced... and therefore many end up taking the cheapest option to them OR borrowing money to pay for a day. (MAD)

Weddings should be a community deal, they should not be so heavily sanctioned by the country!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please see previous answers

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Let us do as we wish! Let us make a union with the person we chose, when and how we wish to chose!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCX-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-08 16:42:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Hampshire

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Does not have to be confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe there needs to be time for preparation of marriage

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever is convenient for all parties

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

During the Covid pandemic it would need to be remote, but an in-person interview would be preferable

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should be possible for that to happen

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it could be extended to 2 years as service people may not be able to be married while on theatre

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure what other circumstances are likely

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It is at present customary for Banns to be published in both churches where the couple reside, I understand, so this should be allowed to continue

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this is very important, so as to ascertain there are no irregularities in the couple's past

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be done, but could possibly be done by zoom in the present climate.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Difficult to answer but organisations that go against our laws and human dignity should not be allowed. eg witches

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I would agree with this. It is vital that morality is upheld

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Training is vital

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not a business and so fees should be kept to minimum

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I endorse the present situation.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a very solemn occasion and so must be held in a respectful place. I do not agree with weddings being held outdoors.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

As stated above

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be accessible to the public

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand Q2

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Registrar office, I guess

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do think there should be witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm unsure. There could be marriages celebrations in hospital, where it not be possible to cohabit after the wedding

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For the above reasons

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's essential there is a time limit

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

It is essential there is freedom for each person to fulfil their marital vows

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be longer in case the person lives longer but has been unable to marry

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I propose wedding do not take place on board ships, so Question is irrelevant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't know

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A because of previous answers

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think that current law prevents couples from getting married

Can't answer Q2

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There should be benefits to local authorities

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unknown

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N?A

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

It is important that costs are kept within reason.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCT-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-09 13:25:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

From May 2020 - April 2021, wedding celebration ceremonies have been postponed by couples I am working with. Couples are feeling concerned about not being able to celebrate their marriage in the way they wish. Some couples booking for 2021 are finding it hard to get in touch with registrars to arrange their marriage or get local advice from them.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some couples may not live together before marriage and be living in different parts of the country. This can make giving notice difficult.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With our socially-mobile, time-efficient society, this is a much better way of giving notice.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

With this year's unprecedented lockdown, it seems that best practice should be to allow couples to have remote interviews via a video link so that the interviewee can check the couple are who they say they are. It would also reduce close contact and promote social distancing. If this could be done by the interviewee from home as well then the problem with the Registrar Office being shut due to a lockdown or other unforeseen set of circumstances would not cause a backlog in preliminaries occurring.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this seems fair as long as the correct paperwork is completed by the official and couple.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current system of displaying notices of marriage is incredibly old fashioned and not really fit for purpose.

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some couples are looking to book their ceremonies further in advance. I think that either 24 months or an easy way to extend a 12-month schedule if required.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should not be forced to cancel their day because the officiant is unexpectedly unable to attend.

Please share your views below:

Maternity leave

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Just have a single online system to show banns countrywide

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Just have a single online system to show banns countrywide

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Preliminaries need to be done, and to be fair to couples who wish to be married in the Church, Anglican preliminaries seem to be the best way to do this.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe a sole officiant should be able to conduct the ceremony and issue the marriage license. This may be a registration officer, minister, nominated person, or independent celebrant.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe a sole officiant should be able to conduct the ceremony and issue the marriage license.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Trade unions, sports clubs

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Marriage in the UK needs to be in line with our laws and moral code. The same standards need to be applied across society even if the marriage ceremony looks different so that it is meaningful to each couple.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. People should be nominated by name, not rank. Just because someone has a title does not mean they are 'fit and proper'. All officiants should do the same training and CPD to be able to be nominated.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All officiants should do the same training and CPD to be able to be considered and included on the list.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All officiants should do the same training and CPD to be able to be nominated.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a conflict of interest

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think guidance on legal aspects, but not on how the ceremony should be conducted. This was take away a couple's choice to have the ceremony of their choosing (which is one of the complaints now).

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be nice to imagine this would happen, however, I don't think in all circumstances it would. An independent organisation or perhaps the GRO could monitor this.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think to maintain high standards, authorisation should be dependent on CPD and client feedback from ceremonies. Perhaps reviews every 24 months?

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If the ceremony is being conducted by an independent officiant rather than a member of a belief or non-belief organisation, I believe the inclusion of a hymn, a religious blessing or prayer, and a nod towards religious rituals should be permitted. For example, lighting a candle to symbolise the light and warmth of marriage and the light and warmth of God (if this is what the couple wish). Seven blessings for the couple if they wish to include Jewish symbolism etc. This could be led by the officiant, family member or a guest, depending on what the couple chooses.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple wish to have a civil marriage followed by a religious blessing then I think this is acceptable. It is their choice.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

The couple would need to be within UK borders to be legally married, so this would need to be considered if they were in the air.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are some beautiful buildings in this country, especially small country churches which lay pretty much abandoned. If a couple wishes to marry there but not by a religious ceremony, then they should be allowed to. They like the venue and there will be revenue to the Parish. Likewise, a religious couple may wish to marry somewhere other than a church (perhaps so their reception can be in the same place as their ceremony). Why should this not be allowed?

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be clarity for what it 'dignified'. If a couple chooses to marry on a plane, then skydive together, this may not be considered dignified by some. I think there needs to be an element of solemnity in the ceremony so it is clear when a couple are married, but to also allow freedom for creativity and personality.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think there needs to be a bigger discussion around what is safe and dignified by a larger group of people than just the GRO. Once it has been agreed upon, then they could produce guidance for all.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples may not want to use the same room in the same way. Each ceremony needs to be considered on its own merit.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As soon as possible!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to the first three.

I don't really understand the fourth point. What religious governing body is there in England and Wales? People may be born into a religion, but choose to remain in it or opt-out. Does it mean that the religion must be made clear if a legal marriage has taken place by their officiant, or whether a couple needs to seek an alternative officiant if the religious officiant refuses to legally marry them?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The opinion of a religious governing authority should not prevent same-sex couples from marrying.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this could also be done by the person chosen to officiate their marriage rather than involving extra people in an already difficult situation.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

The vessel would need to be stable enough to ensure the ceremony was dignified (SUP boards would not fall in this category).

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There may be some need for religious elements in ceremonies but unlikely for entirely religious ceremonies because these are usually venue specific and the venue will be important to the couple.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Could there be an option to do this electronically?

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

It does not seem fair or moral at such a challenging time to charge a couple the usual fee.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Some couples will want this and their choice shouldn't be denied.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be minimal and not be used as a ruse for the local authority to get money from couples. Simply mileage and time.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUU-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-11 10:19:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

North England Conference

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that marriage is ordained by God and should be a permanent arrangement.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It has been disastrous. I was originally invited to 4 weddings ; attended one virtually; one was reduced to 15 with less than 10 days notice; 2 were cancelled.

It is atrocious that this government seems to be so anti-weddings. Their views are based on the fact that most people get drunk at British weddings and they don't make allowance for those of us who don't consume alcohol at all and I am ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTED with the government stance that has destroyed the happiness of so many people because at the end of the day they do not support marriage.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are many fake romances online and we need to protect English women who, compared to other nationalities, are very trusting and vulnerable due to the low self esteem of so many of them.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A month - to safeguard innocent victims of fake online romances

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should be the same for everyone to avoid prejudice and racism.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes provided other checks have been made to avoid bigamy etc

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely! Including in the country where overseas people live.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This can sometimes be difficult, as with COVID, since people die, move etc and every change incurs a cost with the register office.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Definitely

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure

Please share your views below:

Those who do not believe in marriage as described in the Bible

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

They should exclude them

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No they shouoldn't

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should also be done externally in order to avoid abuse of the position

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

b. SHOULD be included

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The same religious content should be allowed if people are religious and just prefer not to get married in a church . If people are not religious it doesn't make sense that there should be religious content.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Cases need to be considered on an individual basis

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Not enough in my area and the costs are too high - during Covid, if you have to change the date twice, you have to pay again  
2-5 Not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NOt sure

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Not sure

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NOt sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not sure

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NOt sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NOt sure

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NOt sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NOt sure

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDU2-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-13 16:04:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

East Sussex Registration Service, part of East Sussex County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

East Sussex

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicable

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable



#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The refusal to allow Notices already given to be extended during lockdown and recovery has caused extensive extra work for local authorities and unnecessary extra costs and inconvenience for thousands of customers, including some couples who are now abroad and cannot return to give notice again.

The refusal to allow Notices to be completed partly online during lockdown and recovery has exposed hundreds of registrars across the country to needless exposure to the virus as a result of extended face to face appointments with couples.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The 7-day residency rule is a nonsense as couples can book themselves into a hotel or stay with friends for 7 days to comply with it and this is then sufficient for them to become 'resident' in the area they are staying in.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This raises potential issues for Section 24 (s24) reporting on potential sham marriages if the first part is done remotely, (although arguably s24 reports don't necessarily stop many marriages going ahead). This could be resolved by a longer period between the in-person interview and the marriage date for foreign nationals.

Some couples would still want to do the first part in person and there is a danger of this option becoming crowded out if there is pressure to do it remotely. As has been the case with certificate ordering online, now this has become mainstream many local authorities have removed the ability for this to be done in person, and a similar situation could arise if the majority of couples opt to do this online.

There is a danger that the first part could be done by one of the couple alone answering for both parties which would play into the forced marriage agenda and may mask safeguarding issues. To that end, if this is agreed, the in-person meeting must include safeguarding questions individually from each other so that both parties confirm they wanted to enter into the marriage.

We are content for British nationals marrying other British nationals to complete the process remotely, but we are not content for this to be done by foreign nationals, although this would create a two-tier system. That said, one already exists now with the 28/70 day waiting period.

Might be more sensible to take a step further and utilise the Verify.Gov service for UK nationals.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Seven WORKING days minimum - to allow time for the schedule to be issued and sent to the officiant in good time. If a s24 is raised or forced/safeguarding concern at the in-person interview then there will need to be time for the investigation to be undertaken before the marriage takes place and so this may well take longer than 7 working days.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No - How would we know if sham/forced is an issue without the face to face meeting when much of this is done on a gut feeling in the presence of the couple. Also, by inviting couples to come in only where we have concerns would them tip them off that we harbour suspicions.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the information displayed is reduced, ie. Name and Town/District. Personal information (address, age, etc) being displayed online would result in data protection issues and potential identity fraud. It would also encourage unlawful marketing approaches to the couple.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1) Yes - Provided that recognised groups like DSRs employed by the local authority can be recorded as a generic group, not as individuals.

2) Yes - Provided that:

a. There is provision to charge a full cost-recovery fee for amending the schedule.

b. There is provision for a cut-off date when the schedule can no longer be amended in advance of the wedding/CP – for operational/logistical reasons.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the local authority issuing the certificates can check that the replacement officiant was authorised to carry out their duties and the couple understand that their marriage/CP will not be legally recognised if not.

Please share your views below:

No – there should be no need to substitute the officiant except in the case of 'death, sudden illness or unavoidable delay'.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Universal civil preliminaries should apply to create a level playing field and consistency, provide better control on sham/forced/safeguarding issues and to prevent pressure on ministers of religion.

#### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that there is provision for a 'full cost-recovery' fee to be charged for the attendance of the officiant, even if they are not leading the ceremony, and that the officiant should be properly trained, that training is refreshed regularly, and that the officiant should face sanctions for non-compliance with regulations.

#### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If civil preliminaries are universal and any religious or non-religious marriage is legally recognised then a registration officer should be able to officiate at any wedding regardless of who is leading the ceremony.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the proviso that we could insist on sending two members of staff under certain circumstances – ie. large number of guests, unusual/new venue, out of hours, couple not known to the service, etc.

#### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

#### Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

2) No – if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

#### Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Please share your views below:

All organisations should be on a recognised list

#### Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.
- 2) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No comment

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No comment

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the Government enables religious and non-religious officiants we propose that it would be more appropriate for the local authority to maintain the local list.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If enabled, independent officiants should be subject to universal 'full cost recovery' fee regulations applicable to all officiants. All officiants should be either 'full cost recovery' or able to make a profit - so the same rules apply to all officiants.

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If enabled, officiants should be limited to being in one group only.

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because we support universal civil preliminaries and civil officiants attending all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should rest with the local authority, (who would be their employer if all officiants are civil as above), or the holder of the local list of authorised officiants if not.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The local authority should act as above (see Q.37), but GRO should have the power to do so as the regulator if the local authority does not act.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

(See Q.37/Q.38 above). We propose that the local authority should manage the officiants and GRO only oversee it if the local authority fails to act.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time-limited membership fee subject to renewal, and regulations (such as having valid Public Liability Insurance), as with other professional bodies, and a de-authorisation process if inadequate CPD is undertaken. This will also help to keep the list contemporaneous and remove unclean data such as membership of deceased parties, for example.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

(See Q.40 above)

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. No – we should maintain the status quo:

- a. if physically able, customers should be required to orally express their consent
- b. if physically able, couples should be required to orally confirm no impediment.

2. Yes - provided that the expression of consent and confirmation of no impediment is a universal requirement that makes any marriage ceremony legally recognisable

3. No - parties should sign a declaration, but see point 2 above – they should also have orally expressed consent and confirmed that there is no impediment during the ceremony. The declaration alone should not be sufficient for a marriage.

4. No - the marriage should be formed when the final signature is entered onto the declaration (couple, witnesses and officiant) AND after the couple have orally expressed their consent and confirmed that there is no impediment. All these conditions should need to be met for the marriage to be legally recognised.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The form and ceremony should be chosen by the parties and agreed to, but the legal requirement for oral consent and confirmation of no impediment, and signing the declaration should be universal (as Q.42 above), to ensure that all marriages are consistently legally recognisable

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The form of the ceremony and who can have one should be a matter for agreement by the religious group concerned, provided that they abide by the same legal requirements as for other groups (as outlined in Q.42 and Q.43 above).

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The legal parts of the ceremony should remain secular and as dictated by current civil registration legislation, however embellishments such as music and readings with religious content - that have no legal standing - should be allowed, provided that they comply with equality and diversity rules.

Please share your views below:

Nothing particular that should definitely be allowed, but anything that could be considered critical of another belief system or a recognised protected characteristic should not be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone should be able to celebrate in any way they choose following a legal marriage, but in all cases it should be clear to everyone attending and witnessing such a celebratory ceremony that it is not a legally recognised marriage ceremony and that the couple are already legally married.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The rules re open doors should be consistent for all forms of marriages and the process for objecting to a wedding should be carried out during the notice period or after the marriage if the legal impediment to that marriage is established later.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, all venues/locations should need to be licensed (albeit temporarily), encompassing checks on permission from the location/venue owner, a responsible person being present at the venue/location for the duration of the ceremony, appropriate insurance and risk assessments having been completed in line with health & safety regulations.

Licensing regulations would therefore need to be relaxed to include short-term licences (for example for one wedding only) and outside locations. To ensure resources were available for this temporary licensing process a 'full cost recovery' fee would be required.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

No location should automatically be disqualified, however there would need to be some checks and balances allowing legal guidance on an acceptable level of risk – for example, an officiant should not be required to conduct marriages in a location/venue that is considered high risk (such as in a hot air balloon or whilst bungee jumping for example).

Owners/organisations operating a venue or location for wedding ceremonies should be able to choose what type of ceremony (civil, religious, non-religious) can take place in their venue, and what category or recognised officiant (civil, non-religious, religious) can lead these ceremonies.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the decision of the licensing local authority (see Q.48 above).

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A dynamic risk assessment should be carried out on the day, but the location should already be licensed (albeit temporarily) including a full risk assessment, (as in Q.48 above).

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that licensing should remain with the Local Authority (see Q.48 above) and if this is the case then - yes, GRO should provide guidance on whether a location is to be considered safe and dignified. GRO, or their approved training provider, should also provide such guidance to officiants for their dynamic risk assessment on the day.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

(See Q.48 above). The pre-approval process would be covered by our proposed licensing process. Local authorities should be responsible and should licence a venue/location for a one-off, or series of, weddings.

Please share your views below:

1. The local authority should be responsible for it

2. Every venue or location should have pre-approval from the local authority before it can be used for a wedding or civil partnership. If not then there will be no confirmation of permission from the land owner, no responsible person to oversee the guests, no health and safety in place, no risk assessments completed, and no public liability insurance in force.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the details are added before it is signed, after it has been signed it is a legally binding document and should not be amended.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only for marriages taking place in Wales

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that:

- a. Accurate and representative signatures can be recorded
- b. There is a contingency in place if the electronic system fails (many countryside wedding venues have poor internet coverage)
- c. The officiant is responsible for back-capturing the registration if necessary in the event of a system failure

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes

2. Yes

3. Other – the marriage should be void if the ceremony was not officiated by an authorised officiant, regardless of whether the couple had knowledge of this or not.

4. Other – as above. If the opt in has not been given the same-sex marriage should be void, regardless of whether the couple has knowledge of this or not.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Other – maintain the status quo – typographical mistakes should not render a marriage void, however a significant mistake that could call into question the identity or marital status of one of the parties, for example, should render it void.

2. No - as previously stated (in Q.42 above), a marriage should not be valid until the declaration is signed by all parties present, including the witnesses and officiant. If the absence of witnesses does not render the marriage void what would be the point of witnesses?

3. No - (see 2 above). The signatures of all parties to the marriage (couple, witnesses and officiant) should be required to make the marriage legally recognised.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Any one of 1(a), 1(b)(i), 1(b)(ii), or 2 should be enough individually to make the marriage non-qualifying, without the need for two tests to be satisfied.

#### Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that all legal processes must have been fulfilled for a presumption in favour of the validity of the marriage.

We do not believe that the couple should be required to have cohabited for a period after its celebration for it to be legally recognised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that all forms of marriage are legally recognised then this should be abolished

#### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems a nonsense that if a party believes they have entered into a marriage without expressing free and informed consent that they only have 3 years within which they can challenge the validity of that marriage.

#### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

#### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Registrars statutory fees for these services are nowhere near commensurate with the costs involved in providing the services, and the statutory fees for each of these services are not in line with each other. These fees should be regularly reviewed so as to represent realistic 'full cost recovery'.

The criteria for a doctor signing off a letter for an RGL should also be more specific. Currently they are very subjective and many customers who continue to attend hospital appointments regularly are being signed off as apparently "on their death-bed".

It is not appropriate for the wider Council Tax-payers to substantially subsidise the marriage of a customer who could potentially afford to pay standard fees for getting married, just because they are terminally ill.

#### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And fees for this service should be reviewed to reflect this extra work and represent 'full cost-recovery'.

NB. We are anecdotally aware of cases under the current system where the ill party knows nothing about the application for an RGL because there is not the requirement for the ill party to give notice and so the whole preparation for the event can currently take place without the ill party's knowledge or consent.

#### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The local authority, rather than GRO, should have the ability to reduce the waiting period, subject to confirmation by the doctor, and this should include the ability to take notice at home or in a clinical setting for the terminally ill patient.

#### Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Conversely, we would propose a shorter timeframe (ideally less than 28 days) for the ceremony to take place and powers given to the local authority to arrange the marriage as soon as practicably possible after the issue of the schedule.

If the schedule expires before the marriage has taken place the full fee should be repaid to restart the process.

If the schedule lasts longer than 28 days then there is no reason for them to have had a reduction in the waiting period.

We are aware of numerous cases under the current regime where once the RGL has been issued the couple prefer to wait for an extended period of time before conducting their marriage and often this leads to a situation where it is too late because the terminally ill party dies before the marriage can take place. Unfortunately, denial of the seriousness of the illness and the imminence of death is commonplace.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no specific urgency in these cases and so the 12-month validity period should remain so as to be consistent with all other civil marriages.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes
2. No - a two-part mainly remote process could work but an in-person part of the process is required to check for safeguarding/sham/forced issues
3. No
4. No

NB. Schedules/authorities should be extended to allow existing arrangements to take place after the national emergency, or couples should be able to marry outdoors to minimise the risk where appropriate.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Doctors can still provide evidence of illness remotely.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We have no issues with this proposal per se, provided that the technicalities of what district the couple are marrying in, and ensuring they are in UK territorial waters, are very clear and easy to follow. There would be complications with the distinction between English & Welsh, and Scottish law near the Scottish border, for example.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it would make sense that the 'port of choice' would be the port of registration of the vessel.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes - but only on commercial vessels registered in the UK with a captain on board who holds recognised commercial qualifications.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they have had the same training and are subject to the same CPD as other officiants.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Quite possibly – to our knowledge most commercial vessels already have their own chaplain, but as we are not experts in this area, we are not in a position to comment.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic copies should be received by the relevant district within 7 days, and the hard copy sent as soon as possible. The marriage could be registered on receipt of the electronic copy but the certificates not be issued until the hard copy has been received.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be set at 'full cost recovery', and should be regularly reviewed to keep pace with increasing costs.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

It is not appropriate for the wider Council Tax-payers to substantially subsidise the marriage of a customer who could potentially afford to pay standard fees for getting married, just because they are terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be set district by district, locally agreed on a 'full cost-recovery' basis.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe it should always be set by the local authority and set at 'full cost recovery'.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be set at 'full cost-recovery' set by the local authority. 'Full cost recovery' means it should include all of the costs for the full gamut of local authority work in relation to ceremonies, including back office functions, on-costs and other non-direct costs and it should not just be based on the registrar's hourly rate.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees for discretionary services should be dictated by the market alone, and should not be regulated nor related to cost recovery. This income stream can significantly reduce the financial burden on the wider Council Tax-payer and allow local authority registration services to self-fund whilst supporting the provision of free statutory birth and death registrations.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We do not agree that fees should be prescribed for the registration officer to officiate at any wedding.

NB. Detained weddings in prisons take substantially longer to facilitate and conduct due to delays caused by obtaining Governor's permission, and access and egress into and out of the prison for security reasons. They are also more costly due to their relative infrequency meaning only more senior or longer serving staff are capable of conducting them.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither of the above.

These should be set at a level that is 'full cost recovery'. The vast majority of RGL cases are for couples who are seeking to avoid the payment of inheritance tax upon the death of one of the parties.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If authorised officiants can operate anywhere within England & Wales then the RG should set the fees nationally on a 'full cost-recovery' basis.

Alternatively, if authorised officiants can only operate in the district where they registered, then the local authority should be able to set the fees on a 'full cost-recovery' basis.

Any fees in either case should include the cost of verifying qualifications are valid and that CPD is up to date.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. No
2. No

The proposals will no doubt increase choice, but we have received no anecdotal feedback or evidence that suggests couples are foregoing getting married

because of the current legal restrictions. On this basis, we don't see how the deregulation of marriages would increase the number of marriages taking place.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. We are currently only able to offer cost-effective budget options in decommissioned register office rooms because we also receive the income from more costly licensed venue marriages. If we were to potentially lose the licensed venue marriage income this would have a negative effect on our ability to continue to offer the low-cost budget options. For Statutory Register Office marriages these are already being subsidised by the wider Council Tax-payer because the statutory fee has been set far too low for 'full cost recovery' purposes.
2. We are not aware of any feedback that our licensed venue attendance fees are too high. The fees paid are a very small proportion compared to the total cost of a wedding at such a venue. The fees we charge to venues to become a licensed premises are also very low when spread over 3 years.
3. The current statutory fee for sending a registrar where one is required does not cover our costs and should be reviewed regularly.
4. Nonsensical question as couples are not able to marry in locations that are not authorised. If couples wish to have a celebration of marriage this is their choice and the costs incurred are not set by us.
5. See point 4 above. There are a range of affordable options already available for a legally recognised marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. If we were to lose the income from licensing premises and from our attendance at weddings at these premises, due to 'full cost recovery' rules we would have no option but to increase the cost of register office weddings in decommissioned rooms.
2. We don't believe that couples should be able to get married in any location without pre-approval of some kind.
3. Although couples who choose to get married in any location may not need to have a separate legally recognised wedding, the costs of getting married are unlikely to be reduced because a trained, qualified officiant would have to attend to make the marriage legally recognised and the location would have to be assessed at least once prior to the marriage to ensure it is safe and dignified. Venues that are not used regularly would incur additional costs for these pre-ceremony risk assessments, etc, that are required by law to comply with Health & Safety legislation.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Licensed venues that are already operating as public-facing businesses should already be complying with the simple legal regulations regarding planning and health & safety that are required as part of the licensing process. These are not direct costs of being licensed – we invariably find a number of potential venues do not comply with Health & Safety rules, so the current licensing process forces them to comply, and as such we fear that a deregulated marketplace would have the effect of making some of these venues disregard the regulations. The costs of becoming a licensed venue cover the administration and checks that these measures are in place, and ongoing support to the licensed venue from the Local Authority. The cost of being licensed is minimal in comparison to the potential income that venues can generate as a result.
2. The costs of registration officers attendance at a licensed venue are covered by the couple, not the licensed premises. We develop a relationship with our licensed venues and work well in partnership with them. We staff our provision according to demand and rarely turn away couples who want to book with us.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Safety checks would still need to be in place for any officiant to attend a venue.
2. If we were to lose a proportion of our income we would be unable to employ as many registrars in the service and this would have a negative impact on our availability.
3. The proposed scheme would give couples more choice according to their own wishes and beliefs
4. We do not agree that the proposed changes would increase the number of couples getting married in the long term, just the choice of where they marry and who can marry them.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Because of the unfunded free provision of birth and death services, most local authorities subsidise these services with income from marriages (albeit whether this is right or wrong – this is the reality of the status quo). Removing the monopoly on secular marriages from the registration service will inevitably lead to a significant reduction in the range and quality of services offered by local authority registration services.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If our previous suggestions are taken into account, local authorities would be able to charge 'full cost-recovery' fees for services that are currently under-funded. We would also be able to conduct weddings outdoors, for which there has been growing demand, and be more flexible on ceremony content for those couples with mixed beliefs.

However, a far simpler solution to the whole proposal, which would address the majority of couples' wishes, would be to allow couples to marry anywhere within the footprint of existing licensed venues, including outdoors, and to allow the temporary licensing of venues or locations for one wedding. Retaining the monopoly of local authorities to provide civil marriages would ensure the ongoing quality and high training of staff, adherence to legislation and opportunities to spot sham and forced marriages.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. None. We are required to follow the requirements of the country they are getting married in.
2. Longer waiting period applies but this is necessary and well publicised.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. This could potentially reduce the number of couples who travel abroad to get married but it seems unlikely as we don't have the climate that most of these couples are looking for.
2. There may possibly be a slight increase in people travelling the UK to get married from overseas, however it seems unlikely as, in our experience, most overseas nationals who choose to get married here do so because they either live here or are marrying a UK national. Again, we don't really have the climate to attract people to this country as a destination wedding.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Our costs will necessarily increase as we are forced to recoup lost income from those marriages we do manage to retain
2. Won't change – just be shifted
3. No comment
4. No comment
5. Costs will be forced to increase as local authorities' income reduces

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDU3-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-13 20:33:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We have put our wedding plans on hold until restrictions loosen and in the hope that the changes in this consultation are implemented soon.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This should be able to happen but absolutely not if it compromises checks around sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This should continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is, I feel, the most important proposal. The requirement for weddings to be in a licensed venue leads to profiteering by many venues making the cost of a non-religious wedding hugely and prohibitively expensive. The only alternative of a council registry office is, certainly in my area, not a singing as the capacities are too low or opening hours not workable.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

This should include an vessels registered appropriately and where an authorised officiant is present.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as this is only cost recovery and no additional fee is charged.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am sure that many people are dissuaded from marrying as the current arrangement where the only alternative to a church or registry office is a registered venues mean that costs are huge and the thought of spending many thousands of pounds on a wedding would either be off-putting or, at worst, unachievable meaning many couples simply do not get married, often, I feel, without realising the implications of not being married and having property and children.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is certainly discouraging me. Both my fiancé and I have been previously married and would like a simple ceremony and celebration for family and friends.

However, we are not religious so would prefer not to have a church wedding. The alternative is either a registry office or a registered venue. Convenient registry offices do not have the capacity we would like and registered venues are hugely expensive and over-fussy for what we want. The ability to have a ceremony and celebration in, perhaps, the local village hall or a pub room would be great. The capacity would be enough and affordable celebration costs would be achievable. Frankly, as soon as you mention wedding to a venue the costs escalate at an alarming rate.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The proposals would offer choice, convenience and, perhaps most importantly, affordability. There are relatively few register offices now but this would be alleviated by the only other choice being a registered venue as is the case now.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDU4-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-14 09:38:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Weddings have had an even greater significance than normal. As someone working in the wedding industry I have worked at 3 weddings during the pandemic (normally in the same period I would have worked at around 50). All guests have appreciated the significance of the wedding even more in the circumstances and the days have been incredibly special to the couples marrying and their families.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think in person interviews are safer.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes that sounds fine.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is risky for people who have experienced abuse or escaped abusive relationships. Abusers often go to great lengths to track down their former partner and this could be a very easy way for them to find someone again.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant often isn't confirmed by the church or the registration service until late in the day. Perhaps the officiating body/organisation providing the officiant should be included on the schedule instead of a named individual.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. It's crazy that a church needs only one person to conduct a ceremony while a civil ceremony needs two officiants.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is very prescriptive and I think some non-religious belief organisations would take issue with it.

Please share your views below:

Why not just allow individuals to register as officiants, regardless of whether they belong to an organisation? A period of training could be required to ensure they know how to conduct a ceremony legally.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not just allow individuals to register as officiants, regardless of whether they belong to an organisation? A period of training could be required to ensure they know how to conduct a ceremony legally.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Sounds fine and much like what happens in the Anglican church, I think.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Each individual should have to undergo the same process to check they are suitable whether they are part of a religious organisation/non-religious belief organisation or are an independent individual.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree but this should apply to ALL officiants, including those from religious/non-religious organisations.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What does that mean? Are you wanting to police their private lives? Will people be told they haven't upheld the dignity of marriage if they have an affair?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if it applies to officiants from religious/non-religious organisations too.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A bible reading, a prayer/blessing, a hymn.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

What does it matter? A marriage is a marriage and what difference does it make if the type of ceremony doesn't tie up with the venue?

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe yes. Dignified - not sure. Could lead to different decisions from different officiants on what they personally consider dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUH-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-18 09:39:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our wedding has been delayed because the licensed venue was closed

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree. Video interviews should be permitted.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRP-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-20 01:23:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I have only been able to get married/civil patnership in a registry office or sinker or piece of worship. However I would want to be married/have a cp either outside or somewhere I know and like

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Because of access and disability. Job interviews happen online, why not these.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Privacy. Online is less private. I see no need for this information to be so readily available

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If unable to attend

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not others, if people want the choice?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What about cp?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limits

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I dont beleive dignity is relevant

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, any should be allowed

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

On the air only if sure which airspace they are in.

And in more besides. E.g.:  
Business/charity property, e.g.. pub, National Trust  
Holiday homes

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there be not much restriction

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it not be too rigerous

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Henetal register office to receive applications from parties wishing to be married or officient, or venue owner

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe parents are neccessary, I would hope those boxes did not have to be completed, I welcome the three parent options though

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

witnesses should be required. The schedule/document should be signed

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. There are many reasons not to cohabit. The cohabitation clause was discriminatory

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Any that are safe

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should give officiant name too

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should be possible, for those who wish it, of which there will be some

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be free

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes, as I am discouraged. The proposals would make more more likely to entering a marriage or cp.

2. Yes. See above

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It should not need to be expensive to get married, I think it should be free. Why disadvantage the poor?

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It should not need to be expensive to get married, I think it should be free. Why disadvantage the poor?

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It should not need to be expensive to get married, I think it should be free. Why disadvantage the poor?

More wedding venues should decrease the cost of wedding venues due to there being more choice

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDU-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-20 11:03:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Daphne Franks

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Justice for Joan campaign: [www.justiceforjoan.com](http://www.justiceforjoan.com) about predatory marriage

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How is this currently checked? If it is robustly checked, it could be a barrier to predatory marriage. However, if it is just a token requirement as long as people give an address in the area, then it might as well be abolished, though other safeguards will be needed.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For the prevention of predatory marriage it is crucial that the couples would both be interviewed separately, and at different times - otherwise giving notice online or by post would just make things easier for predators. We are aware that the current requirement for separate interviews before marriage is not always followed by registrars - it currently says "should" have separate interviews in the guidelines for registrars and this must be changed to "must". Interviews must be recorded so that it can be proved that they took place, with a consequence that if they did not then the marriage is invalid.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period, perhaps a month, to allow relatives and friends to find and view an online notice of marriage and, in the case of a possible predatory marriage, obtain a caveat or register objections.

This could be reviewed in the case of special circumstances such as terminal illness.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely not. "Where concerns arise" is far too vague - will those interviewing be trained in assessing capacity, or will there be a set of robust questions that they have to ask? This would just make it easier for predators. How can you tell that the person is not being influenced by someone off-screen? Judging capacity is even more difficult online than face to face.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, we have been campaigning for this, and also to ensure it is searchable eg Google alerts. This is a vital safeguarding tool. This is just the modern equivalent of the old "publishing the banns on the church door" - the idea always was for anyone to be able to see it. The part about "save where this would expose either of the couple to risk of harm" would need to be carefully considered and defined as a predator could abuse the system by saying so.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided all robust safeguarding checks are met. There should always be two officiants present to safeguard the officials as well as the couple.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided that safeguarding checks are met and there should always be TWO officials present to safeguard both the officiants and the couple.

Please share your views below:

Not sure what this means. For safeguarding purposes it must not be possible for one party to the marriage to ask a friend etc to officiate at the last moment.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No - they should always be published online, in an easily searchable national database, for safeguarding purposes.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, absolutely. This is of vital importance. The marriage should not be valid unless separate interviews have been both conducted and recorded in detail.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, for safeguarding purposes it is vital that both of the couple attend and that they are seen separately.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the case provided that safeguarding is required equally in both cases. At present safeguarding is often more thorough at Church weddings than at civil ceremonies and this needs to change - there is currently no robust safeguarding at civil ceremonies.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How is the "freely expressed consent" to be checked? There must be a safeguarding requirement here. At the moment there is almost no safeguarding at marriage. My mother (age 91 with a long-standing diagnosis of dementia) could not remember her address or date of birth at her wedding. One registrar raised this as a query but they took it no further and the other one decided to go ahead. There were no consequences except to my mother and all the family. The registrars thought that because of my mother's "demeanour" (she was apparently smiling) she must understand, which displays a near-total lack of understanding of how dementia can present.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not. There should always be two present to ensure that any concerns can be raised and to safeguard both the couple and the registrars. Registrars have been threatened with everything from physical violence to legal action when trying to stop a marriage. Suggesting only one is needed is a terrible idea and would make it even more difficult than at present for registrars to stop weddings.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not unless they have undergone thorough safeguarding training.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, because there should be a rule that anyone who can officiate at a wedding must have adequate safeguarding training and use robust questions to assess capacity to marry.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Organisations which do not respect everyone's human rights, such as fascists, the Ku Klux Klan and similar organisations. Who would create or judge such a list? I suggest a human rights organisation.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 people is a tiny number - the number should be larger to avoid tiny cults etc. BUT it needs a universal requirement for all officiants to undergo thorough safeguarding training and a procedure for referring couples on if there are doubts about capacity. Otherwise the system would be very much open to abuse by anyone.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Who defines this? There would need to be a clause stating that "contrary to public policy or morality" should not just be something defined by Government, but by an independent humanitarian body.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, BUT with the proviso that ALL officiants should have undergone thorough safeguarding training devised by a national safeguarding organisation, not just that someone with little knowledge thought might do.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and all should be required to have a minimum level of accredited training (which does not happen now) and pass a safeguarding qualification designed by a safeguarding organisation and not by the General Register Office as this is not their area of expertise. This would safeguard officiants as



well as those getting married.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this must include checking for an accredited qualification to state that they have undergone thorough safeguarding training. There should be an accredited course which they have to pass, devised by a safeguarding organisation and not by the General Register Office as safeguarding is not their area of expertise.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, in addition to a proper officiants' qualification which would include safeguarding training devised by a safeguarding organisation and not by the General Register Office as this is not their area of expertise.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but the content must include safeguarding training that is not designed by the General Register Office, as this is not their area of expertise.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be professionally qualified with an approved qualification in the legal, procedural and safeguarding elements to being an officiant. As such they should be able to make a profit. However, there should also be the option of non-profit municipal weddings service so that costs do not escalate.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is also a non-profit service available.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure exactly what this means.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely - the same level of safeguarding should apply to all weddings. So for example separate interviews at notification of marriage should be compulsory - there must be a distinction between guidance (what should happen) and rules (what must happen, with consequences if they do not, such as the marriage being invalid).

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but the General Register Office should also be able to withdraw authorisation.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - this must be the case.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but extra resources and training would need to be provided for this, or it would not happen because of constraints of time and cost.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest that there should be a mandatory refresher course every ten years to avoid people getting into bad habits and not checking properly, plus continuing professional development.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - the job needs to be professionalised.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - the issue of whether both parties have capacity to consent MUST be addressed both at the notification of marriage and on the day of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - absolutely not! Weddings should not be secret for reasons of safeguarding - for example if someone comes in who knows a valid reason why the marriage should not take place. There should however be a clause allowing the ejection of someone who simply wants to disrupt proceedings.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Health and safety considerations must be taken into account as marriages need to be open to the public.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All venues acceptable with safeguarding and health and safety checks.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be publicly accessible (so people can raise valid objections to a marriage) but not necessarily regularly available.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided that the officiant has undergone suitable training and qualification.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but officiants would need training, not just advice. Just putting the advice in a handbook is not enough: more discussion is needed and the opportunity to raise questions.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is a sensible option.

Please share your views below:

A qualified officiant should decide with mandatory re-checks every five years.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This infrastructure needs to be put in place as soon as possible.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, PLUS the marriage should be void if the required preliminaries (such as separate interviews) have not been correctly followed. Procedures would need to be in place to allow this to be proved. We asked the Local Government Ombudsman to investigate my mother's marriage and she said she could not because "no evidence is kept at marriage". Also, the CPS's main reason for being unable to prosecute the man who married my mother (for Forced Marriage) was that "no evidence is kept at marriage"., even though my mother had a five-year history of diagnosed vascular dementia, and one of the registrars on the day queried whether she had capacity to marry. Evidence needs to be kept and this is why one of the goals of Justice for Joan is that weddings should be audio- or video-recorded.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Numbers 2 and 3 are vital for safeguarding purposes.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

"Express consent" is not detailed enough and requires further definition. At present it is almost impossible to prove incapacity at marriage and this must be addressed.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This presumption must be abolished for safeguarding purposes.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no time period which is helpful here.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, for example failing to explain that a marriage revokes a will should be considered misleading. This information must be included in marriage ceremonies or the notification of marriage so that couples can give fully informed consent to the marriage.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, for safeguarding purposes to stop predatory marriages.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Do not understand the question. More explanation is needed here!

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No: Absolutely not. This would leave too many holes where fraud could be committed.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any such provisions should be able to apply to all couples but it is more important to conduct marriages thoroughly and with minimal opportunities for fraud and forced marriage. It is important not to be panicked into changes that have not been thought through.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, definitely.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, though thorough safeguarding checks must have taken place prior to the wedding.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but the officiant must be trained and qualified in safeguarding matters.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, but the officiant must be trained and qualified in safeguarding matters.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All officiants must be qualified and trained in safeguarding.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They would need to be trained and qualified and have safeguarding training. There are many elderly people on cruise ships and some might not have capacity to marry - it is important that any officiant could identify this and not get swept along by the holiday atmosphere. Predators could otherwise take the elderly on a cruise with the express intent of marrying them with fewer checks and no family knowing.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely as they would need to make firm safeguarding checks - it is known that people behave more recklessly when away from home so particularly important to check that each party in a couple has capacity to marry. Those with dementia could be particularly confused, and therefore at risk, on a cruise ship away from their own environment.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Otherwise this is wide open to predatory marriages.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - this is sensible

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

A compassionate low fee here is an excellent idea.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. It is very important that this should continue.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - it should certainly not be profit-making

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, definitely

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, there should be a standardised hourly rate that is applicable to all.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Below-cost

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Qualifications should be mandatory to professionalise officiants, and a fee should be payable for the checks that are needed.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

These proposals would help many couples to marry but are not sufficient to protect against predatory marriage, unless it is planned to build in safeguarding after the results of this consultation have been collated. The idea of having just one officiant at a marriage is particularly dangerous with regard to predatory marriage, forced marriage and the registrar's personal safety. The idea of marrying in different venues would be very attractive to many couples but the appropriate safeguarding needs to be in place, with consequences if it is not.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We would expect the proposals - particularly more training and qualification for registrars - to increase the cost of marriage. At present many couples spend a huge amount of money on their wedding but the actual costs of the marriage are small in comparison. Any increase in costs would be justified by increased safeguarding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not think that saving couples money should be a prime consideration - at the moment it is comparatively inexpensive to marry, so adding to the cost to introduce safeguarding and training for registrars is more important. Many couples spend thousands of pounds on weddings so any increase in price caused by safeguarding measures or the recording of weddings would be well justified and would certainly not prevent couples from marrying. The cost of the marriage ceremony itself is not generally a factor in a couple's decision to marry.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

n/a

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



There needs to be a national, easily-accessed, searchable and easily-checked, register of proposed weddings online so people can object where there are issues with capacity etc. There is no link with Power of Attorney at marriage either. I had Power of Attorney for my mother as she was incapable of making the simplest decision and yet the marriage allowed her to, unknowingly, revoke her own Will.

A national, searchable database of planned weddings plus link with Power of Attorney would make it both easier and safer for people to marry in different parts of the country.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please see my previous answer to question 89

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRW-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-21 13:51:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Sarah Young

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Ridley & Hall Legal Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I am concerned about this - how would those concerns arise in a remote interview? The person may not actually be alone, they may be subject to subtle pressure or overt threats. It can be very hard even in person to assess whether someone is freely consenting - diluting even that contact is a very bad idea in my opinion.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree - there is a balancing of risk needed but on the whole I think this must be right. I would suggest that in addition to the caveat process, there should also be a 'wedding alert' form that can be completed online via the GRO. This could operate along the same lines as a 6 month renewable 'standing search' used in probate to discover when/if someone has extracted a grant of probate.

As things stand, a paper caveat can be lodged at a specific Registry office on the grounds that a person, for example, lacks capacity. It is a blunt tool and if it is filed in time, may prevent a wedding but at the risk of a hostile court battle over capacity.

If a wedding can take place anywhere - and given that capacity is fluctuating - a wedding alert would simply notify a concerned family member and they could take whatever action might then be necessary which could potentially at least appear less hostile.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are currently insufficient safeguards in place to ensure that 1 above can happen; registrars do not have any training on safeguarding. They do not always see parties separately. Even if they do, there are no standard questions to check even cursorily for understanding. Those with dementia, women especially, are often adept at appearing capacious and 'putting on a good show', nodding and smiling.

Given the serious legal consequences of marriage there is astonishingly little protection for the vulnerable elderly (or those with a brain injury/learning disability etc) who can be groomed into marriage. There are no consequences for failure to adhere to the guidance for registrars, which is expressed as 'should' rather than 'must' in any event. I wouldn't want to see registrars being held personally responsible but if there is no accountability - and no evidence kept from a wedding (which may be held secretly if it is a predatory or abusive one - how is any such marriage going to be capable of being annulled?

On the day of the wedding it will be, practically, a very difficult matter even for someone trained in assessing capacity to refuse to marry a couple.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the reasons above - two officials are more likely to be able to take a stand to prevent a wedding going ahead if that is necessary than one.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO needs to be more transparent and accountable. The General Registrar has refused to meet with Fabian Hamilton MP to discuss his Private Members Bill on Marriage and Civil Partnerships and his concerns about predatory marriage.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only when there are sufficiently robust pre ceremony processes in place to minimise the risk of a marriage taking place where one of the parties lacks capacity (or as a result of duress/mistake)

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRB-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-21 16:55:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Villiers Hotel

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We have held one wedding for 30 at our venue during all of this and it was lovely and intimate. However It was really missing the evening reception with a dance floor and dj, but I understand why at the moment.



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

two weeks

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think there should be an interview at some stage

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I think both parties should be required to attend.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should be managed by the register office

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Hospital or housebound yes, prison no.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be extended, however I do think it should all be in person.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

1

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think the cost of being married on approved premises is too high.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRG-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-22 10:15:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Creslow Events

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I think the period should be at least seven days. There should also be provision to allow a wedding to take place faster in certain circumstances (someone has been given only a week to live ect)

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree that it should be possible to do a remote interview.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I believe that banns should be able to be read in any church. couples often live away from where they are to be married. Many couples currently have to travel back to their childhood churches to have their banns read. This is time consuming, tedious and adds to road use.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I also believe that anyone conducting a wedding should be a registration officer including members of the clergy.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone officiating a wedding should be a registrar whether they are member of a religious group or not.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I believe the government should be making a guide as to who can and can't become a registrar, not a religious group. If any religious group is allowed to conduct weddings just because they are a religious group, I'm sure we will see a rise in forced marriages and sham marriages.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes they should. often couples come together that are athiest and a member of a religious group. they usually both want something different at a wedding and the law should allow them to do this. what would be the harm of having a hymn at a civil wedding?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I believe that weddings should be able to take place inside and outside. Im not sure that it should be able to take place in the air or in water as this may make a mockery of the ceremony. It shouldn't take place in a private home but provision should be made for those that cannot leave their home (on their death bed ect)

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Recognized venues should go on a pre approval list with the registrars office and not need approval for every wedding that takes place.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe it will open up the wedding venue market to become more dynamic and will offer couples greater scope at what they can have available at their wedding. It will help boost the sector and will enable smaller companies and business to thrive rather than just the large wedding venues. It will help boost the economy in rural areas.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDR3-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-22 14:41:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Creslow Events

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Good idea. We live in the computer age and should be able to conduct the process online, for simplicity but have the ability to be able to interview face to face if concerns arise.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I cannot see a reason for not allowing this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If the original officiant is unable to proceed for any reason then a substitute should be appointed.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about the reasoning behind this proposal

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this means

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I believe they should still be published in the parishes where the couple reside.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I believe this should still be the case

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should both attend

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A registration officer should officiate at all weddings, so the clergy at a religious ceremony should be registered, whatever their faith

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this leaves things a bit loose so anyone can claim to fall into this category

Please share your views below:

This would be sensible but I'm not sure how far the list should go

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think the number of members should be at least 100 but the decision should be made by the registration service

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Should be excluded

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location



Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,

Please share your views below:

The place for a wedding should be respectful, so not underwater or dangling in the air but in a proper place, such as outdoors, at a venue, on a boat or plane. I don't think a marriage should take place in a private home unless there are circumstances which prevent one of the couple from leaving the home

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A recognised wedding venue should be able to pre-register for weddings, which should be approved by the general register office and only have to do this once.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These things should be correctly undertaken.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should not take place at sea

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a one off fee

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a set fee wherever the wedding takes place

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be the same for everyone

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a set fee for all

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law prohibits people from getting married in the place of their choice. Many couples say they would like to marry outside and some do at our venue but still have to do the legal part another time, which most do not like. At the moment couples cannot marry in our marquee, which seems ridiculous as it is a sound structure built to withstand 80 mph winds. We get many couples who believe this can be done at the moment but we have to tell them otherwise.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Anything which helps reduce the cost and the stress for couples getting married is particularly welcome, especially in the light of what has occurred this year.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

We are a small venue, only hosting a few weddings a year. As the law stands at present, the cost of licensing our venue would be prohibitive. We lose a lot of weddings because couples nowadays like to get married and have their reception all at one venue.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The new laws would benefit our business hugely. We are a small country venue running alongside our farming enterprise. If we were able to hold weddings outdoors or in our marquee it would increase our business dramatically.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRK-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 09:59:16

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRX-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 10:08:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

NA

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

GREATER MANCHESTER

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

NA

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, care needs to be taken if there is even a minor concern

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be done as well as notice in England/Wales

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No that detail above is sufficient



Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No should be on line also

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes that seems resdi

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes sounds reasonable

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican church is the state religion and as such should be able to do the legal preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This should this be a consultation between the couple and the registrar

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The registrar

Application in writing to local registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No as long as normal conditions met  
Prison weddings should be banned,

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with prison weddings

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I'm unsure

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe so

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

NA

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

NA

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NA

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

NA



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD5T-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 10:19:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD55-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 10:48:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Will be entering into heterosexual civil ceremony in 2021 after being together for 10 years but didn't want to get married.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not married

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not married

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not always recognised as spouse so get none of the benefits despite being in a committed relationship for 10 years, living together for 8 years.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I did not want to enter into a traditional marriage because of the outdated beliefs and laws surrounding the contract. I do not agree with the legacy attached to the marriage ceremony but up until 2019 there were no alternatives in law, until the heterosexual civil ceremony was allowed.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our ceremony was postponed because the small room could not accommodate more than 10 guests. If ceremonies were allowed outside then more flexibility would be possible. Also, the high costs of venues outside of registry offices would be negated as Ceremonies wouldn't be as constrained to specific locations.

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as identity can be proved and safeguards against forced or predatory marriage are better enforced.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to be seen before the wedding date but 2 step notice is very good idea.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Allows any authorities to react to any safeguarding issues raised.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If there were issues, would the in person interview be attended? so long as no licence was issued before an in person interview then potentially.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Good idea

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Allows people to search for vulnerable relatives or friends names.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What's the difference between all the countries of the British Isles if the banns are published online?

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what the rules for this are

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, should all be published online

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Rules and training should be exactly the same for religious and civil marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Same rules and training for all delivering the same service

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious ceremony should be allowed for those who want them but civil preliminary should apply.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should have to prove proficiency and training to prevent safeguarding issues

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil authority should sign off on choice for all religious choices

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should have choice of Ceremony type

Please share your views below:

Yes, for transparency

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should abide by laws of the land.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to know who is performing Ceremonies to check the standards are maintained

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as they have all safeguarding training and mechanisms to report issues

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil authority should check all prospective officiants

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be similar to call out charge for registry office fee

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But still allow some flexibility around non legal sections of service

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be with civil authority

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be renewed so there is oversight on the officiant

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could risk vulnerable people entering forced marriage

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Removes constraints on numbers, distancing and monopoly on locations which drive up costs

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Should be more safeguarding checks done

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Could limit public access to beauty spots etc

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could be disrespectful to religious settings but if the venue is happy to host the ceremony then no problem, i.e. Only one of the couple is religious and wants to marry in church but other one wants a civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Allows couples to choose location meaningful to them without adding excess work to officiant

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Streamline process

Please share your views below:

Registry office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should always be witnesses to marriage and failure to sign may be a safeguarding flag for other issues

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a framework to register relationships without a marriage ceremony

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No time limit

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No view as unsure of laws

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In exceptional circumstances

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

So long as all preliminary steps have been done and officiant is registered

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need same training as all officiants

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Don't know but probably, given popularity of cruises.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair to charge small fee

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The more choice the better

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But shouldn't be for profit, just time and travel.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

But not indefinitely, if given only a few months to live.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I didn't want to get married and still don't but it's unfair the law doesn't recognise my relationship so comprising with civil partnership. I believe the outdated laws do prevent marriage but I think there should be more alternatives to marriage, like register as a spouse for the legal protection without being married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As locations are limited the cost of a wedding ceremony is very expensive outside of registry offices. By opening up locations it would remove the monopoly and lower costs generally which is a good thing as debt shouldn't be accrued for a wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More competition should lower the cost of a ceremony which is solely needed.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It will standardise the costs across country as cost of additional ceremony at venues can be much more than hosting reception only which is unreasonable. I was quoted £2000 to have the ceremony at a venue on top of reception cost, plus registrar.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

More place could benefit from weddings without initial outlay and people could marry in meaningful locations and boost local businesses in more locations.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

They will benefit from increased fees from processing and attending more Ceremonies

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More business in the area so more money, spread more evenly across country and industries.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More interest as less need to have destination weddings if you wish to marry outdoors.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Small increase in business for wedding parties all staying on same ship

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

May need to employ more registrars and/or officiants.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUK-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 11:05:39

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Minister

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Spiritualists' National Union

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

legally married in a religious ceremony

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a none conducted in the period

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would fit in with other new proposals

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

moving forward into the age of IT

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

reasonable time to prepare and to hold interview with the Officiants

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Where there are any concerns it is important to have a face to face meet to see the person actually exists and is who they say they are

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This should be allowed as we are bringing the ceremony into the 21 century there is no need to provide barriers

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It could be online in addition as some people still do not have access to the internet

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

reasonable length of time, but maybe in extreme circumstances ie the pandemic there may be a need for dispensation to extend this time

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The registrar can ensure the officiant is registered and there may be genuine occasions when the Officiant cannot undertake the service, which could have been booked 12 months previous

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be unfair for the wedding to be cancelled because the officiant is ill etc.

Please share your views below:

Wherever there is a genuine need to make a substitution

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

the banns should come under the same criteria or all

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

both should have to declare their is no impediment to their marriage

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

some small churches may not have an available officiant and need to call on the registration officer

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

some organisations have a full training program before they appoint Ministers and Officiants and are best placed to decide who is capable of the role

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

the dignity of the ceremony must be upheld and not brought into disrepute so there should be exclusions for unlawful or morality

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

providing they have a suitable training program

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this would provide control over who officiants are

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

if they have or do undergo a training program

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this should be backed up with evidence of what makes them fit and proper

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the emphasis should be on the legalities not commercial basis

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant is in charge of the service and are responsible for the contents which should be dignified

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

to provide suitable ceremonies

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation should have a better knowledge of the officiant

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

standards should be kept

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to understand all legalities and keep up to date

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there may be reasons why the couple choose to hold a religious service after the ceremony ie some members of the family are against the religion the couple want involved and may then invite different people to each ceremony

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the recent pandemic is an example of where restrictions of number of people allowed have been imposed. Under these new proposal there may not be a need for this as the lawful impediment may be removed

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

there may be occasions were it is not felt suitable but this would probably be the exception not the rule and the officiant could determine if they are prepared to officiate or not

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

agreed or dignified but not sure to what extent they could say the location was safe. If it is for the officiant to decide and then something goes wrong who has the responsibility? do the officiants then need insurance

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if it is agreed that the officiant is responsible to see if it is a safe location they would need guidance

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no need to continually agree the location unless there are changes to the location

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

only when there is a suitable infrastructure

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

all relevant points

Other

Please expand on your answer:

agreed 1 and 3 but feel the need for witnesses to ensure the service took place

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

to be classed as married they should have a ceremony

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties should consent and therefore the ceremony is illegal if no consent from one or both parties, regardless of time

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the registration officer should be sensitive to the individuals needs and only ask the essential questions and respond quickly

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We would not expect it to be a big demand

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A faith based organisation should be able to have a one off blanket fee regardless of number of officiants.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There may e some couples who is put off marriage because of current law. these proposals could help them to marry

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

the price of marriages should not prohibit some from getting married

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

the proposals could lead to reduced costs for venues as some venues are very expensive but there are not always alternatives available at the moment

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

the cost of weddings do prohibit some from getting married an some feel under pressure to have large venues etc. the new proposals around venues could ease this pressure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD5E-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 12:03:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure that both parties have an interview to ensure they are both in agreement and to ensure they are both of sound mind and understand the implications

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A cooling off period to ensure the marriage is carried out with full consent of both parties

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Face to face in person interviews, to take place separately from the future spouse or family members to ensure the marriage has not been coerced or forced

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should be allowed

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would alert family and friends and if there is any reason to believe that the marriage is being forced or coerced, the registrar/police could be informed

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is any doubt about consent, the specific registrar could be alerted and put appropriate precautions in place

A different registrar should only be substituted if the names registrar is sick, or unable to officiate

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this should be monitored closely and any doubts recorded by the original registrar should be noted and the replacement registrar alerted

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be made at the registry office and on line in addition to any church banns

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above, banns should be made public at the registry office and on line

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No banns should be public at the registry office and on line

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Any officiant should interview the couple separately to ensure both are in agreement and not being coerced

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Registrars should receive comprehensive training to identify whether either party is being coerced into a marriage or is not of sound mind to make a rational decision

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should undergo specialist training to identify any possible coercion or mental incapacity to make a rational decision and have the authority to seek help from police or psychiatric assessment

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registrar and religious officials to be present at religious ceremony

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing full training has been given re identifying coercion

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Registrar who has had appropriate training should witness the marriage to ensure no coercion takes place

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Trained Registrar should be in attendance to ensure that no one is forced or coerced into marriage or is mentally impaired and not able to make a rational decision

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing a qualified, trained Registrar is present, anyone can actually perform the ceremony

Please share your views below:

Anyone can officiate, providing a qualified and trained Registrar is present.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Registrar should attend all weddings

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Trained Registrar should be in attendance

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any one can officiate, but the Registrar should witness the marriage and sign the registration certificate

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registrar should be in attendance

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Trained registrar should attend all weddings regardless of who officiates

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registrar should attend all weddings no profit should be made from officiating

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No profit should be made from officiating at a wedding. A registrar appointed by the government should always be present

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A registrar should be present

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And a registrar should attend every wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A government appointed official registrar should witness all ceremonies

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a periodic review

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing a qualified trained Registrar is present

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The couples Deity , God, should be included at the request of the couple.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Providing a marriage has taken place with a Registrar in attendance, any other ceremony can take place at a separate time

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any one should be allowed to enter the place that the ceremony is taking place in order to witness the ceremony and, if applicable to bring any anomalies to the Registrars attention ie coersment, mental health issues etc

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing a Registrar can be physically present

Please share your views below:

A wedding should be able to take place anywhere, providing a Registrar and two witnesses are physically able to be present and the premed is if applicable be open to the public

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be accessible to any interested party so that if there are any doubts regarding mental health or coercion of either party is suspected, the Registrar can be alerted

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any public building should be able to be used for a wedding regardless of who officiated providing a qualified Registrar is present

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing a registrar is present

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a legal and binding ceremony and as such treated with gravitas

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be accepted guidelines in place

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All venues should be approved by a government trained registrar. The premises should be accessible to the general public and suitable for a registrar, officiant and at least two witnesses

Please share your views below:

A general registration of premises for weddings via Registry office ie Churches, religious buildings, hotels etc

An single registration for a "one off" ceremony ie private dwelling, outdoor space

Providing that the venue is announced on the banns so that any interested parties can be present to object if they suspect coercion or mental health issues to inform the attending registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

English any other language

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage should only be legal and binding if all three of the above are complied with

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should cohabit first an agreed period of time in law.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A couple should attend a ceremony in the presence of a registrar to be recognised as legally married

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may take longer for the individual to make the complaint due to exceptional circumstances. There should always be flexibility re timeframe

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To prevent coercion or to establish state of mental health

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A government appointed trained Registrar should be present at all marriage ceremonies

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should both be present together for the ceremony unless there are special circumstances where they cannot physically be present. Both parties should be assessed by a trained person to establish their consent and mental health well being

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing that a government appointed Registrar is present

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No view, but a gov appointed Registrar should be present

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A government approved and trained officiant should be named

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only government trained officiants trained to establish coercion and or mental health issues

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a person is too sick to attend a licensed marriage premed is, there should be reduced fees, they should not be penalised for their disability

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

No one who is disabled should be penalised financially, they should be ENABLED To receive the same service as everyone else

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No marriage should take place if either party has been coerced or their mental health capacity has been impaired. There should be stringent precautions put in place to prevent this

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I believe that a qualified registrar should witness every wedding regardless

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Venue should be stated on the banns so any interested parties can attend and express any concerns

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD5Q-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 13:42:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Notts

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Heterosexual marriage in registry office

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Validation

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

7days is insufficient.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too easy for fraudsters

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Gives time for families to consult

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Should not happen open to abuse

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Should not continue. More paperwork should be submitted to validate proposed marriage to prove identity.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not everyone has access to internet and will be excluded.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To protect the people.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To let the marriage to ahead.

Please share your views below:

No but if they are qualified

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banks should be published for view in country of proposed marriage

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Old laws should be revised.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No banns should be available for viewing to everyone.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Documents verifying the identity of everyone is essential

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree. To avoid sham marriages

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Gives better security.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a freely expressed ceremony and check identity.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure that the correct legal process is adhered to.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One official should be sufficient as long as they have creditation.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should have relevant qualifications and not by wrote.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Relevant qualification are required.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be with a legal document

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Legality of the marriage of divorce ensues.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Should be excluded due to legality

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Legality of marriage

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to scams.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be trained officials

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to interpretation within certain communities

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Could be made into a business

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Business opportunity with disregard to people

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Conflict of interests

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A legal contract should be respected

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be monitored regularly

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Laws should be upheld and concerned that the wrong person may be nominated and use their powers to their advantage plus a panel will need to be organised to oversee them

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An overall body to police them

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Age should not be an issue but being able to carry out duties is the prime factor

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to be able to carry out duties.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Commitment has been made without coercion

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Choice should be a priority

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Have their own religious ceremony then verified by a civil ceremony

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A choice for the people involved

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Depends upon the faith

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Privacy and invited guests

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be in venues who are licenced

Please share your views below:

No should be in recognised and licenced venues

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should have capability to adhere to their clients requests

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venue should be licenced and if clients choice

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Goes without saying

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Licenced venues should be approved

Please share your views below:

Registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To verify people and possibly for future geneology

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be in both languages if wedding in Wales

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need a paper trail

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legality

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses should be present. Marriage should be registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Notice of marriage should be given by law. Marriage should be officiated by officiants. Consent must be given by both parties.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be consummated and is open to abuse if not.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No such thing a common law wife/husband. An official wedding should take place.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be brought down to one year.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should be licenced.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Coercian. People with dementia who are unaware of situation.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Treated like everyone else.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current rules/revs work fine.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be revised on a case by case basis according to illness.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree. Case by case basis and reviewed regularly

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should have medical evidence to support claim

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be licenced venues

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With appropriate licenced officiated and costs incurred paid for.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No open to abuse

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All information should be available and legal laws of the land adhered to.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be by married by licenced officiated an legal requirements adhered to.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be licenced.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Official channels should be adhered to

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No requirement at all

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Paperwork should be returned asap. Cruise ships have technology to return paperwork via machines

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Expenses should be commesurate.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

No different costs to normal weddings.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Choice is essential.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To recover any on going costs relating to ceremony.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Each venue should be risk assessed and costs recovered.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Travelling costs should be recovered

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any incurred costs should be paid by the clients.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Costs should be recovered

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Should pay the same charges

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they have had training and background checks.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current laws are adequate. No new laws will encourage more people to get married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The weddings costs are not prohibitive and neither are ancillary travelling costs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Current laws should be maintained where any weddings take place

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The costs should be in line with inflation and running costs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Venues and officiated should be Govt controlled and pre approved. registration officers should be paid any costs incurred.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Current law has worked well within local law and authorities. So no change.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Maybe extra local income.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Everyone who applies to get married should be registered and resident in England and Wales for 12 months.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Identification and proof of residency should have lived in whatever country for at least 12 months.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Should make no difference.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Should make no difference.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs should be passed onto marriage ceremonies.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD54-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 13:49:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Popular areas would get inundated with people wishing to marry whilst other areas would lose out. Also, people with something to hide would be able to give false information (such as where they live) to obtain "sham" marriages in order to gain residency in the UK.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the online part of this proposal as it would be easier for checks to be made by families worried about any family member whom they suspect is being taken advantage of by someone without any scruples.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

If the Registrar has any concerns there must be enough time for them to be addressed before a legally binding marriage contract can be entered into.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In a "remote" interview a vulnerable person could be coerced into giving the impression they are freely agreeing to the marriage, also an elderly person with memory issues could give answers they do not remember giving. Registrars should be trained to look out for tell tale signs something is not right and have the power to contact relatives if they feel at all suspicious. A marriage licence is a very powerful document.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

That sounds reasonable, provided notice is also given in England or Wales if the other person is resident in either of those countries.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It works both ways. Not publicly displaying this information online could put a vulnerable person at risk too.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the original officiant was happy that there was no reason this marriage could not proceed it should not matter who was taking the actual service.

Please share your views below:

There should be no instance where a substitute officiant could be brought in to conduct a marriage that another officiant had doubts about and was investigating.



Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a marriage is taking place in England or Wales the banns should be published there as being able to publish them elsewhere can offer unscrupulous a way of hiding any criminal activity, i.e. sham marriages, marriage to an elderly person without their family's knowledge.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

War damage seems highly unlikely these days.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be widely published, preferably online as this is accessible to all.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both questions. A marriage contract is legally binding and the Clergy have a huge responsibility to protect vulnerable people.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, both participants should be consulted before a common licence is granted in order to protect both parties.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the Church accepts its legal responsibility to make sure both parties are indeed entering into this union willingly and are both compos mentis. If the church cannot guarantee that then civil preliminaries should be required before any church wedding.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should not be conducted in a quick, conveyor belt system, but undertaken in a manner that reflects the legally binding power a marriage certificate holds.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Church weddings should be conducted by someone with more authority than a clerk.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is more than a religious ceremony, it is a legally binding contract and should be recognised as such.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a legally binding contract and needs to be officiated by a trained Registrar as I doubt anyone without any religious belief would opt for a Church wedding. There is no reason why they cannot be a separate "non-religious" ceremony before or after the legal ceremony at the Registry Office.

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a legally binding contract and should not be entered into lightly, so I see no reason why anyone other than a Registrar or the Church should be given the power to conduct marriages.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is legal binding and not just about religious or non-religious beliefs. Those without religious belief have always had the option of a Civil Ceremony (Registry Office) so there is no need to hand the power ad hoc to any organisation that wants to set up in business and conduct marriage ceremonies without being answerable to anyone if they "tick" the right boxes.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, the law should be able to exclude any organisation it considers could be acting unlawfully or not acting in the public's best interests. Weddings are a big money maker and this could be exploited in the wrong hands.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I do not understand this question. I assume the Church controls who conducts weddings in their churches and Registrars are appointed to conduct civil ceremonies in Registry Offices.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To avoid fraudulent activities, the public should have access to any list of nominated officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is legally binding and there should be no danger of any unscrupulous persons being able to set themselves up as Officiants. Applying to the General Register Office and having their name added to a public list of officiants would not be sufficient to protect the public.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would such organisations be able to prove these officiants are "fit and proper"? What legal redress would there be if later on any such officiant was proved not to be "fit and proper"?

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason for "independent officiants" and would question why someone would want to set themselves up as such instead of becoming a Registrar through normal channels. I am sure the Registrar General has a big enough workload without having this added. Also, unscrupulous people always manage to find "legal" loopholes to suit their purposes so strongly believe the business of conducting civil ceremonies should stay within the hands of professional Registrars. Even Registrars can unwittingly conduct ceremonies that should not have taken place so adding a layer of "independent officiants" would only add to the problem.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My main worry is that unscrupulous people would see this as just a money spinner with no check and balances in place to make sure the marriage should be taking place, for reasons already stated above (sham marriages, vulnerable people etc.)

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Being able to charge what they what could encourage those criminally inclined to conduct a marriage ceremony even if they suspect such a marriage should not, legally, be taking place.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with the idea of independent celebrants - this could easily pave the way to criminal activities.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a very important step and should not be treated lightly, which is why I believe "independent officiants" should not be introduced.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should offer guidance but the dangerous idea of "independent officiants" should not be pursued.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If this dangerous "independent officiant" route is taken then this needs to have an official, legal monitoring process with the power to take immediate action when required to do so.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should have this power without waiting to see if the body who nominated them has itself failed to act.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office must have this power, to ensure no criminal activity can take place.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If you are going to have "independent officiants" they should be reviewed on an annual basis to make sure they are doing no harm to the public.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Officiant's would need to be made aware that they will be continually monitored and "struck off" if they did not comply with the rules.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If one of the party is being forced into the marriage, or agreeing to a "sham" marriage, or taking part even though their mental faculties are in doubt, I cannot see the relevance of making a verbal declaration or expressing consent by signing a document other than allowing whoever is conducting the ceremony the ability to say they have proof both parties agreed to the marriage. My concern here would be marriages being conducted by "independent officiants" for material gain being able to wash their hands of any responsibility.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is legally binding and this element should be the basis of any marriage, so any "form and ceremony" should be standard and not something conjured up by the parties concerned.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any legal requirements must be standard but the other parts of the ceremony can be in accordance with the wishes of the religious groups.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A devout Christian should not be made feel they cannot include religion in a second marriage just because they had been divorced due to a previous partner's actions.

Please share your views below:

They should be, within reason, whatever those getting married expressly request.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If someone wants to "seal" their marriage with a religious service after a civil ceremony that should be allowed, especially considering the current climate where small civil ceremonies are taking place because legal restraints are in force because of Covid.19. A church blessing involving larger numbers of family and friends should not be a problem.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Having a "closed door" approach plays into the hands of those "bending" the law, If there is nothing to hide there is no reason not to keep with the status quo.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would open the door for unscrupulous "independent officiants" to set themselves up in business. It would be very difficult to oversee this if hundreds, if not thousands, of venues suddenly appeared on the market.

Please share your views below:

I see no problem with the present system.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present arrangement does not need changing.

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the parties want a religious ceremony then why would they opt for anything other than a religious venue? Likewise, if the parties are not religious why would they want a civil ceremony in a religious venue?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Officiants should not have this power.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The current officiants (be it Church or Registry Office) already conduct ceremonies in venues meeting these requirements. Independent Officiants should not be given this power.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should not be necessary for the General Register Office to do this - unless you are referring to Independent Officiants, who should not have the power to conduct a ceremony anywhere that does not currently have the authority to be a suitable venue.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the locations already host weddings I fail to see what the problem is?

Please share your views below:

If the venue has been granted permission to hold such ceremonies and the parties booking the wedding have selected it I fail to see what pre-approval process is needed?

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such details should be recorded at the time of the marriage, not added afterwards.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The last option, both English and Welsh, sounds the most sensible one.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The internet is wonderful when it works, but we all know it can be open to fraud, crash when overloaded (i.e. during Covid.19), be totally unreliable in certain areas.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses and the marriage document should be signed.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not cohating after such a marriage sounds like a sham marriage.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Either the couple is legally married or not married. What friends and family believe is irrelevant.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If someone has not given their consent to a marriage there should be no time limit on their being able to petition for such a marriage being declared null and void.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A good reason not to introduce "independent officiants"!

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a legal contract and the "law" should continue to govern any wedding taking place, irrespective of the circumstances,

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on the circumstances, i.e. if there is sufficient time for a registration officer to interview the terminally ill party.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the extension after a national emergency (like Covid.19) but strongly disagree with remote weddings as this could have a bad impact on vulnerable people being coerced into marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If someone is dying their wish to make sure those they love are financially protected should be respected.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremonies being conducted under the law of England or Wales should be undertaken either in England or Wales.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. This could pave the way for even more sham marriages.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should give all details so such ceremonies can be checked out beforehand.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This opens up another loophole for independent officiants.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not convinced "independent officiants" would not be open to unscrupulous practice so even less impressed with the idea of "maritime officiants"...

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That should be the obvious interpretation.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

The only demand I can see is for those with criminal intent.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Always assuming they intend to return to the UK? Cannot see how this could be enforced if left open.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.



Please expand on your answer:

Compassion in such circumstances should be the standard.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

This really depends on the financial circumstances of the parties concerned and really should be at the discretion of the registration officer.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this is concerning "independent officiants" the fee set to authorise such an application should be sufficiently high to discourage those just looking for an easy way to make money.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think current laws discourages or prevents couples from getting married if that is what they wish to do. The add on costs of weddings (i.e. dress, venue etc) is more likely to put couples with limited finances. The provisional proposal of introducing "independent officiants" might increase the number of marriages - but possibly for the wrong reasons.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As stated above, I believe the "wedding industry" has hiked the cost of weddings and this is not within the control of the law.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not think your proposals have any impact on the true cost of weddings, as stated above there seems to be a huge pressure on people to "splash out" on a very expensive wedding (dress, venue, honeymoon, bucks/hens nights etc.) that has nothing to do with the lawful part of the ceremony. The idea of ceremonies in private homes does play into the hands of those trying to coerce someone into marriage so there would need to be very careful checks and balances here.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

As stated above, I do not believe the current law on venues is the problem. No idea what the fee is for a registration officer is to attend a wedding venue but I guess it pales into insignificance against the fees involved with the venue itself.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

(1) Pre-approval is very necessary to protect the parties involved; (2) if there is a shortage of registration officers for civil weddings would it not make better sense to recruit more rather than the dubious option (3) of non-religious belief organisations/independent officiants and (4) just about sums up the real problem - weddings are seen as a commercial opportunity and have priced many couples out of the market.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The law must remain the most important aspect with regard to marriage, it is after all a legally binding contract between two people which can only be broken by the intervention of the legal process.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not see why local authorities should "benefit". Marriage is a solemn, legal process not just a money spinner.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

What is important is that the laws of England and Wales are upheld at all times, unfortunately there will always be those that are intent on breaking those laws so in my opinion the current laws need strengthening not weakening in any way.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The proposed schemes would probably make things easier but at the same time risk opening the door for more criminal activity if not properly overseen by those in authority.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am still worried that more marriages at sea runs the risk of more fraudulent activity.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

You need to weigh up any commercial gain from maritime industry against losses within the current venues and the risk of fraudulent activity.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea what the cost implications are but cannot see that such schemes would make it any cheaper for couples, if that is what your aim is.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD5D-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 14:06:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Rather than just living together I felt that marriage, in 1977, offered more safeguards and would be better for any children we may have had. I also thought that if there were any difficulties then we would be more likely to work through them than if it was easy to just walk away. And it showed my commitment to my husband. I would probably have chosen a civil partnership had the option been there.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

My options were Church or Register Office, as I was not religious I chose the later. We may have chosen a different place to be married had the option been there.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a joyous celebration in a place the couple choose. This may not be where they live and having to reside there for 7 days could be a problem.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the potential bride and groom have a face to face interview with a person who is aware of things such as forced marriages and marriages of convenience, and has the ability to spot them.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

If no problems are identified then the time until someone can marry is irrelevant. But there should be a length of time after which if the marriage has not taken place then another interview is required.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that remote interviews give the best information to ascertain if the marriage should not go ahead. Therefore I would not agree with remote interviews.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

The process could be started.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would risk of harm be ascertained?

### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think 6 months.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There may be other things such as retirement, change of job, moving areas etc.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be able to marry where they wish within the United Kingdom.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This is discriminatory. If you are considering publishing banns online or elsewhere for couples not marrying in an Anglican Church then Anglican marriages should have to do the same.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No. The Anglican Church should be the same as anywhere else where couples can marry.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Couples should be interviewed separately to avoid intimidation by the other in the case of forced marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be the same.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be interviewed and licenced as any other officiant.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They may nominate people to be officiates but these people must be interviewed and licenced to perform marriages

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes because these may well be exploitative and if an organisation promotes things that are unlawful it should not be able to marry.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes as long as the people who may hold that office are aware of their responsibilities and trained appropriately

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are trained appropriately.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People need to be paid for the role they do. It is unfair if non religious officiate are allowed to charge more.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a person is authorised to marry people then it should not matter where they marry people. A chef can cook in a private home or a restaurant.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should choose their own style of wedding as long as they realise the commitment they make.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should only be guidance.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessarily . Organisations do not always admit when someone is not up to the job.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as a church blessing can be given should people want it.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No limit

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I expect that a couple would choose an officiant who agreed with their chosen venue

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe yes, dignified not necessarily

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Definitely they should be able to assess safety and risk

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The owner of the venue should be responsible for it and the venue should be prelicensed with the registrar subject to regular safety assessments

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I was unaware that there was a presumption in law. But I believe that long time cohabitation should be given legal benefits.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is not much waiting time

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No idea

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limit, perhaps 12 months

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think the current law discourages marriage. This may be due more to the ceremony with the promise to obey and the general idea of marriage as less than a partnership. I think that civil partnerships should be open to any orientation of couple and would probably be more popular than marriage.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD5S-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-23 14:31:46

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

+ [REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Only my personal details, not my responses.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Close friend's son's wedding cancelled for a year. Distress and harm to mental health of all concerned.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There may be many good reasons why this may not be practical, and is capable of being 'contrived' anyway, so means little.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a better solution.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This is such a serious and binding contract that 7 days gives thinking time. As always, there may be exceptional reasons which justify overriding this, e.g where one partner is very ill.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, they should be in person, but with good flexibility of where.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree no change.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would help reduce the likelihood of pressurised and secret marriages.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely. This is sensible.

Please share your views below:

only exceptional, with agreement in some form.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Their other rules may differ. Why not apply in England or Wales?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if it is a church wedding, this makes sense.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. This is a serious and binding contract, and helps reflection.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Not sure it would help individuals to speak openly if there were any 'threat' from the partner being present.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is a solemn and binding contract.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Re 2., it should depend on the credentials of the organisation, not just some self-appointed group.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There are some obvious ones to include, such as humanism, but it cannot be a complete list.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure this is strong enough.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should not be 'a wedding'.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Individuals may change. They should meet a set of criteria, rather than be named.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They may not be qualified to decide and very much open to interpretation.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limit.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The same person may carry out both well and appropriately.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be minimum words/sentiments that should be covered.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but the Office should be able to do this too.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be reviewed at least every 10 years.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but within parameters.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to the requirement previously stated above.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objection. Seems something that may help resolve many situations.

Please share your views below:

Up to the couple to decide, but can see it may become complicated if non religious celebrant leading., which may not comply with the relevant teachings.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need to repeal.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need, subject to restrictions of venue.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

There may be issues of 'where the ceremony took place' and country disputes.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Increases capacity and scope for venues to be used economically, to preserve their future.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult - open to interpretation. Guidance notes would help.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Efficient use of resources.

Please share your views below:

The Office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This removes some direct control.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - avoids doubt and proposed reforms make marriage easier, so no reason not to take part if wished.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Arbitrary time period.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very important.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No specialist knowledge.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Short period of notice.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be identifiable where the ceremony has taken place and assign it to a country.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A difficult circumstance where a ship is involved. Surely the officiant should be named.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a difference between a ceremony planned prior to departure, and one decided upon when already at sea. Difficult to see how this respects the seriousness and solemnity of marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not known.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be a way to return it.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anything that is part of the official ceremony should be so controlled.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

The fee may be refunded by a different route, eg charity.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The proposed overhaul of the system is also tied up with:

- the ease of divorce;
- rules in relation to marriage overruling Wills
- rules in relation to inheritance where no Will.

The widening of rules would be more inclusive, and others will have a better idea than me about to what extent. This is a good principle.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The widening of rules would be more inclusive, and others will have a better idea than me about to what extent. This is a good principle.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The widening of rules would be more inclusive, and others will have a better idea than me about to what extent. This is a good principle. :

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No other personal knowledge to offer.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This is an important improvement for helping businesses and diversifying uses.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Helps to be able to hire out premises to raise revenue.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No knowledge.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No knowledge.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No knowledge.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Vital that none of the measures approved put additional strain on local authorities without adequate and fair financial compensation.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDSP-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-24 22:20:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::  
dumfries and galloway

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

+ [REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

i agree with law commission..dont think there is a need for this as checks can be done whether they are in a district or not.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this would be great...no running around visiting registrars offices and trying to get appointment.. computers are the way of life today i think it would be easier.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

i am a celebrant in training and would agree with this.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

no they should be published for everyone to see online like anyone elses if this is passed

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

i think this should be sole responsibility of the registrars .

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as a celebrant in training i can only officiate at a ceremony..i would like the registry to perform initial checks and allow whatever officiant to sign marriage schedule at ceremony and allow us to do so so its recognised as legal...i feel that all the checks to give the go ahead for the marriage to take place have been done at the registrars office anyway..

i am at the moment paying for a training course in celebrancy and am also having to look and spend further to conduct at a ceremony legally this would simplify the whole process in my eyes as i would uplift marriage schedule and sign on the day and return to registrar.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

i would greatly appreciate this.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

all weddings should be unique and not conducted within the same guidelines as another apart from the legalities

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

they should be allowed to have a prayer in relation to their religion

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

no too much information is unnecessary

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

i feel it should be void if not registered or schedule signed

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

any officiant should be able to legally marry them in these circumstances. Especially in cases where their circumstances have no chance of changing

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

and also in scotland

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

speed boats

yachts

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but why not the name of the officiant ?

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

i think it s fair to say its still a 50 50 mix of both

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

i think it may be discouraging because of the process with paperwork

your proposals may simplify things for many people.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

i would like myself as a celebrant after doing my training that i would e able to sign a marriage schedule to legalise a marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDS8-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-25 09:25:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

+ [REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned about predatory marriages, where a person targets a vulnerable person, marries them in order to be a beneficiary after they die. Registrars need more training to determine whether a couple is in full capacity when they agree to marry, and understand what this means including the current law which makes any Will invalid on marriage.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think all interviews should be in person with just the Registrar and each person intending to marry separately, so that each can be honest and open, and so that the Registrar can determine whether they know all the implications of marriage, and have the capacity to make such an important decision.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDSE-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-25 16:57:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This safeguard needs to be retained

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why double the arrangement? One interview should be sufficient as at present.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Must be in person - there have to be safeguards to ensure sham or forced marriages are all but impossible to occur.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This arrangement should remain in place.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing few other changes are made, this seems sensible.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a last resort

Please share your views below:

This ought not be allowed

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be two officants/registrars at all eddings as at present - trained and competent.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers should continue to be able to officiate at all types of weddings - why on earth limit these people? This is bonkers.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should ALWAYS be two on duty as at present.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The vetting required for this is too tricky to contemplate and enact. I have no confidence that this can be achieved satisfactorily.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This too much like students marking their own answers - who will vet and oversee this risky development?

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How will this requirement be judged? It's bonkers.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is already in place under the present arrangements which work well. Guidance can be issued - will officiants follow it?

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be done in partnership with Local Authority staff - quality assurance is essential if any of these changes are made.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who will provide this CPD?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no alteration to the existing pattern of preliminaries and the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be a change to this provision - it's fine as it is

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The existing arrangements allow for public scrutiny and celebration and are an essential part of a wedding.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Just read that question - "anywhere"?

Really? What about safety arrangements?

Public scrutiny?

The chances for this suggestion to allow for abuse of the importance of weddings is vast.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Outdoors, with safeguards, is fine.

The other three options are laughable and undermine the importance of the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public accessibility is an important element and should remain.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be done in partnership with LA staff who have a wealth of experience in this area.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The good sense of officiants is always uncertain - this allows for unwelcome inconsistencies.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - this is essential if consistency is required.

Please share your views below:

Local Authority vetting bi-annually.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No level of security could be sufficiently high for this to be achieved - the present arrangements remain the best and always will.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are essential - the wedding MUST be registered too.

The present arrangements demanding complete accuracy must remain in place.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too dangerous and difficult to monitor.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course this should remain possible - why deny folk this possibility?

Even suggesting this is worthy of consultation is barkingly mad.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So you DO want LA support?

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The existing arrangements are entirely adequate.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDS5-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-26 11:22:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safeguards need to be in place for people with a mental illness and where a power of attorney may be in place

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It must be in person

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

21 days minimum again to safeguard people with mental illness.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should be in person interview in order to safeguard people with a mental illness

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to appropriate safeguards for those mentally ill.

Please share your views below:

subject to the above

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In order to safeguard those mentally ill.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No widespread publication is required.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a need to safeguard the mentally ill.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the appropriate level of training in place in order to safeguard those mentally ill.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the appropriate level of training to safeguard the mentally ill.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Subject to safeguards of the mentally ill.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They must also have the appropriate training in order to safeguard the mentally ill.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limits on charges and they must be reasonable.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Formal training required for all in order to safeguard the mentally ill.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be statutory levels of training and competence again in order to safeguard the mentally ill

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Time limits with appropriate training and refresher training must be mandatory

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People must be free to hold a religious ceremony following the marriage if they want to.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be public again to safeguard those with a mental illness

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Appropriate training and guidance must be in place.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Health and Safety training should be part of the training programme.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Established religious locations or hotels etc would be responsible for the operation of their premises under the Health and Safety Act.

Other locations/ organisations must comply in the same way this would then place an onus on the officiate again necessitating appropriate training.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must include reference to safeguards of the mentally ill.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The full correct process must be followed

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Safeguards must be in place for those mentally ill.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to appropriate safeguards of management and training being in place

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to appropriate safeguards being in place to safeguard the mentally ill.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the premises being safe and assessed as being so under the health and Safety Act

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant must be named

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to appropriate training

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Full cost fee should be charged except in specific extenuating circumstances.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

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Consultation Question 90:

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Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDSW-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-26 12:11:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My understanding is that this current requirement is, at the same time both restrictive for most couples but does nothing to safeguard vulnerable individuals from consent issues.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This simplifies the initial process but should ensure an opportunity for competency to be assessed properly.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

If the process has been shortened by allowing it to be commenced on line there is no reason why there should not be a two week period to allow for all comments, objections, etc to be made in case there are potential issues with the proposed marriage.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes this seems reasonable.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Ideally, if it's not already it should be notified in and outside England and Wales. This is after all a public record.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No - this introduces a risk of too many variables as to why the officiant could be changed at short notice.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The banns should be published locally for a specific reason, so that there is transparency. Why would a couple have banns published in Northern Ireland for a wedding to take place in England?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A historical scenario, hopefully never to be repeated.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No - it should be all the churches in the diocese.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, to improve clarity and safeguarding for those involved.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, to avoid obvious undue pressure from either party and again for clarity and audit purposes should an issue arise at a later date.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if one wishes to marry in Church there should be some commitment to the process.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For the avoidance of doubt or subsequent argument or dispute.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they are properly trained, and have administrative support and all necessary consent, and legal checks have previously been undertaken and recorded.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See Q21 answer.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes there have to be checks and balances.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes subject to appropriate qualifications, training.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To enable audit and ensure transparency

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they understand what that actually means and can be held to account if not

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is just a logical requirement to ensure basic minimum standards

Consultation Question 32:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise it becomes a numbers game, and sadly, the pursuit of profit will become the overriding aim of a minority of individuals and corners will inevitably be cut.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No limit will, sadly, result in naive or vulnerable people being grossly overcharged as in all manner of services these days.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to suitable scrutiny of those organisations. Otherwise who will check who is deciding what is fit and proper?

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Just makes sense otherwise there is no point.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the ongoing training is maintained and checks carried out appropriately.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For the obvious reasons of skill fade, out of date knowledge, legislation change etc.

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no need to do things twice, marry one way or the other, not both.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as all the proposed preliminary checks and notifications are made there should be no need for random members of the public to be present.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If the public do not need to be allowed there is no reason for a couple not to be married at home.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's one or the other, make a decision! Is it a religious or civil wedding - it cannot be both. Can religious venues be made to hold civil weddings or should they be made to? I think not.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This must be allowed to avoid later consent issues or concerns having no validity and takes the pressure from officiants being the final arbiters of competence/capacity on the day.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Times have changed people live different more flexible lives these days.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The classic common law marriage misconception should be finally consigned to the bin, a couple is either legally married in an appropriate ceremony with all the appropriate transparency and checks and balances or not.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should all be completed beforehand.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Actions have to have consequences particularly those that may be unlawful.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to sufficient checks..

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any appropriate approved vessel.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There might be but my question to those applying would be - why?

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is reasonable

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

This is a compassionate issue and I suspect the numbers involved are relatively small.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The proposals should, if implemented, increase the number of couples being legally married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs have to cover the services provided. If many couples can afford what seem to many to be exorbitant amounts for dresses, wedding venues, parties and honeymoons that can and should afford to pay for the mechanics of the legal process of marrying.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Any saving would be welcome.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Notknown

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Not known

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not known

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Not known

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDS6-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-26 16:53:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are planned to be married in February 2022

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We are not yet married, it is very important to us to have a humanist legal marriage

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We are not yet married

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

It is very impersonal and less meaningful to have to go through marrying before the actual event. We do not want to have to go to Ireland or Scotland or Wales to get a legal humanist marriage. It seems wrong that England still is not recognising humanist marriages as legal.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would free up the time of the registrar office and makes sense

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Being able to give notice online is a good way forward

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days is an acceptable amount of time and allows government to do their work

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is absolutely a good idea, this will save time of both the registration office and the person applying

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes should still be possible

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally agree, online notice is more modern and less expensive

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule should include any humanist celebrant that will be present at the ceremony if necessary.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this should account for humanist views also

Please share your views below:

Humanist officiants should have equal standing to any civil ceremony

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Churches should adhere to the rules of any other marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Religious weddings no longer have a place in our society in my opinion, all weddings should either be civil ceremonies or humanist marriages, the reason for this is the decline in religious people in England and the reduction in church weddings.

At the very least humanist marriages should be as legal as a church wedding.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Humanist officiants should be legalised to allow couple to have a humanist beliefs wedding.

To not allow this is discriminatory.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, if a civil wedding then they attend. If a humanist wedding then a celebrant should be allowed to legally marry the couple.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious weddings no longer have a place in our society. If the church can marry people then so should a humanist celebrant.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, humanism is as much as a belief as believing in god. Therefore the government should legalise humanist marriages.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree as a humanist.

Please share your views below:

As long as humanism is listed as a legal marriage.

Peoples beliefs should be recognised along with any religious organisation as to not be discriminatory.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Meeting regularly in groups does not constitute a belief system, I believe in humanism and would like a humanist wedding.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree, if a belief system is immoral then it should be disallowed from officiating weddings.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I agree,

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, although extortionate prices should be prevented

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, guidance only. The couple should have the ceremony they desire.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a maximum amount of time it takes to approve an officiant

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, professional development of their individual organisation.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No religious content should be imposed on an individual's wedding if they are not religious. It is unacceptable

Please share your views below:

No religious view at civil ceremonies unless requested by the couple

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Please share your views below:

No limits should be applied

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

The law should allow all possible eventualities

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Please share your views below:

The officiant holds responsibility or the organisation does

Application from the couple should detail the location of the wedding and officiant approves

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some people's parents are not available or not present when married

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Anyone should be able to marry if they so wish no matter their situation.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

greed

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 69:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No preference

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Compassionate and moral

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Compassionate

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe that the current laws discourage people including myself from getting married. My belief is humanism and I would prefer not to have a civil marriage although at the moment I don't have a choice.

I believe there will be an increase in people getting married if non religious legal marriages are allowed

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There is a significant extra cost to having a civil marriage prior to a humanist ceremony. This is very discriminatory for couples who can't afford to do both.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There is a necessity for humanist only marriages as a civil wedding is not representative of couples with non religious beliefs. The benefits would be the conservatives showing a forward thinking policy towards inclusivity and a reduction in costs for couples wanting non religious weddings

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities would have increased revenue due to more couples wanting non religious marriages

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Increased revenue, easier access, less work load

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Slight cost of developing systems to record data, but overall cost savings on registration office time

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDS4-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-27 14:43:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

No applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not an issue

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

First marriage celebrated in a church. Ended in divorce.  
Second marriage in Reading Register Office 33 years ago. Still married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

A register office wedding is pretty sterile. 15 minutes only and no opportunity to really participate in it.

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I personally have no experience but my daughter is planning her wedding for July 2021 and is finding it very stressful as she has no idea if it can happen and if so how many people can be there. Several of her friends who had planned weddings in 2020 have postponed them twice already.

She is also terribly upset that because her wedding won't be in a church, it is not legally recognised as a marriage.

Even though the venue has a wedding licence there is no framework to include the legal civil part of the ceremony into the wedding as she wants it

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many couples do not live in the place where they intend to marry. This is an outdated and meaningless requirement

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because this personal interview issue is currently causing a giant backlog. There must be a simpler way to prove identity : you do not have to have an interview for a passport or driving licence

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems logical, feasible and practical

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems logical that there should be a term beyond which the schedule ( by which I assume you mean period of time during which the marriage can take place) lapses

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, logical

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whyever not?

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the case that banns are published online, this is a redundant issue

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

They can do this online.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It's time we standardised the process. It's iniquitous that non believers cannot include this in their ceremony as a matter of course

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why don't they now?

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why ever not?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why would you need more than one?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I thought they already were

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow non believers and the god fearing alike to have the kind of ceremony they want

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony the couple choose, so long as it complies in all respect with British law, should reflect the beliefs and preferences of the couple concerned

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that is classified as extremist in its political or religious beliefs, or promotes behaviour that does not comply with the laws and humanitarian principles of our country

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they are not extremist nut jobs

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes yes and yes!!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I do not have a view on this

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These things need to be regulated and monitored

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, no nut jobs

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why the officiants shouldn't charge a modest fee to cover time and expense

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Modest fee. Weddings are very expensive and we should not encourage officiants to over charge

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that it would be acceptable to a non religious couple to find out their officiant was themselves a member of a church or sect. That negates the reason for choosing a secular service

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No Elvis impersonators required!

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage, whether secular or religious, is a serious and sacred business and should be taken as such.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be possible for anyone unsuitable to be removed if the nominating body refuses to do so

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above



Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not see a reason for this

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if vicars have to do the same!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot imagine why this is not the case already

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the reforms go ahead, there should no longer be any need for this

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why ever not?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the couple and the officiant agree

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I have no objection to any of these

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see a requirement for this

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need to offend the god fearing by profaning their spaces

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The safety of the officiant cannot be comprised

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Avoids arguments

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Please share your views below:

Must be a government process which is well defined.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

### Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a legal document and must be intelligible in the language of all parts of the UK

### Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sooner rather than later

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible and necessary to avoid exploitation

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should, unless those mistakes are rectified in front of an officiant

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Necessary to prevent exploitation

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical. There may be good reasons why the couple cannot immediately cohabit

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This has never been legally true and is a common and damaging misconception

### Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't have an opinion on this

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I see no particular problems

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Avoids exploitation of the terminally ill for material gain

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is crazy that there isn't already

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To prevent anyone being held to an agreement they may no longer desire

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are strange times

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement to prove imminence of death seems far too intrusive

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have not given this enough thought to give an answer

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I can't imagine there is much call for this or why there should be.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I suppose so. I have no particular views on these circumstances

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seems logical

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable to expect

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

It seems logical

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think the legal framework should encourage and facilitate marriage instead of making it a dual process for the non religious. In these pandemic times especially, where weddings are having to be rearranged, postponed, reorganised at the drop of a hat, it makes no sense for registrars to be backed up solidly whilst church weddings can go ahead

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no particular views in this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My daughter just wants to get married, both legally and spiritually, in the venue of her choice, in one integrated ceremony. Whether she is legally wed should not depend on whether the registrar is available

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no view on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Weddings and marriages (which hopefully soon can be the same thing) have to be regulated.  
Beyond that I have no particular view

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I understand there is a shortage of registrars. Obviously a lot more will be needed

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Don't know

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7A-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-27 16:26:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



I am an Independent Celebrant and as such every one of my 2020 booked wedding ceremonies has either cancelled or been postponed to 2021. Some of these were moved to later in the year before moving again to next year.

Of the two ceremonies that were cancelled, in both cases the couples opted to have an intimate legal ceremony only (instead of the personal non legal ceremony they had decided to book) as this was the only option allowed to them at that time in the pandemic.

Some of the others have continued with their legal marriage registration in 2020 and will hold a full personal ceremony with me next year, followed by a full reception.

My business has been strained financially as I have postponed my 2020 ceremonies to 2021 and therefore lots of key dates are already fully booked from any potential couples wishing to book with me for 2021.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I feel the only proof required to be lawfully married in England or Wales should be British Citizenship and ID. Lots of couples return to home towns, or even home countries to be married and this is a very outdated law.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is in line with current every day expectations and also helpful for those that are working during office hours.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I am assuming by this time all relevant documents and proof are already approved and this is just formality? In which case this works with those couples travelling to be married in another district to the one they reside.

It would be tricky if any further documents are then suddenly required at this time that may then affect whether the wedding will go ahead.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes remote interviews would be useful, so long as the couples are aware that further in house interviews may be required and that they have sufficient notice prior to the wedding to be able to hold these.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes absolutely

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the public should remain to have the right of notice of marriage - doing so online is a modern solution to this.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Is the schedule given after notice or marriage? Yes I think this could be valid for up to 12 months

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the couples should be aware of who is going to officiate for them

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this enables the marriage to continue

Please share your views below:

Yes but only if the couple are made aware, and agree to this, ahead of the day.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, all couples should be subject to the same checks regardless of which church or if in non religious settings.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, you must get declarations from both parties

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I think having ALL weddings preceded by civil preliminaries would put too much strain on the Registration Offices countrywide. This system currently works so I see no need to change it.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ass all the above are what make each marriage legal it is important that the officiant present has these legal duties

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe each officiant will attract their own work;  
ie a Registrar will conduct Civil Ceremonies  
a Vicar will conduct Religious Ceremonies  
a Celebrant (Humanist, Independent and others) will conduct more personal ceremonies with alternative elements to those offered in Civil or Religious ceremonies

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems a waste of resources to require two registrars present at every civil ceremony

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Independent Celebrants should also be listed as they offer ceremonies which will include any faith the couple wish. This could be of no faith, single faith or mixed faith to represent a couple who practice differing faiths to each other. Without Independent Celebrants on the list all of these couples will fall outside of a system that will truly reflect who they are and their needs.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes absolutely

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I do not understand the question

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a record kept of all officiants that are legally allowed to perform legal marriage and this list should be accessible by the public by way of checking that their chosen officiant is registered as such

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Officiants have a huge following of couples and they should be able to conduct legal marriage as well as faith and belief systems (especially for couples of no faith, no belief or indeed a mixture)

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, there must be a system of ensuring that all officiants are fit and proper. Training must be completed to be sure of a professional approach

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The belief system should come higher than the profits made

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

By choosing an Independent Officiant it is the couples choice as to whether to pay the fees or not.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree - the officiant should only be registered under one "heading" or "type" of officiant

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, a wedding can be fun and modern but should totally uphold all dignity and solemnity of marriage and the occasion of the commitment must always be priority

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this guidance should be provided by the associating body attached to each type of officiant.

Each associating body would have guidance direct from the General Register Office and all such guidance should be agreed

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And I would encourage ongoing training and assessment of each officiant from the organisation which nominated them

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the Independent Officiant is part of an association - this monitoring should be offered by the association.

The General Register Office should only act in such a way if the officiant is not part of an association or body

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, I believe this will grey the definition between Civil and Religious ceremonies

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No idea

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very outdated law

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Cant see a reason to place a limit

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It will be the duty of the officiant to ensure the venue / area is safe and acceptable

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, reduce the amount of duplicated work where it is unnecessary

Please share your views below:

The General Registrar Office should be responsible for pre-approval of such areas. The venue / land owner would be issued with some kind of certification and perhaps regular inspections in order to renew the certificate

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree to this if the couple are of both English and Welsh decendants

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should be changed at the same time as the law

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Agree
2. Witnesses must be absent but can be subsidised due to unforeseen circumstances
3. Disagree

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

unknown

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However there may be a very short term of notice, especially given the circumstances that there may be no time due to illness

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, so long as the vessel is deemed safe and is registered in England or Wales

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:



Please share your views below:

I definitely feel there should be some choice of content for the couples to decide

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes I do believe the current law discourages couples from marrying as the content does not currently appeal to some of them. This is particularly true if the couple have different faiths. I also feel that there are couples who do not like the formality of current ceremonies set by law and this is also discouraging.

I would hope the proposals will offer far more choice to couples and a much more modern approach to marriage that I feel could facilitate more weddings.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

5. I feel I am qualified to answer this question as I am an Independent Celebrant and this is something that I constantly deal with. There are lots of couples who love the idea of having a Celebrant but are put off by the necessity of having a separate legal wedding at the Register Office. I wouldn't say this is usually down to cost but it is definitely off putting that this often has to happen on a different day to the day of the Ceremony

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. unknown
2. There could definitely be a cost saving if the couple are wanting to use their own land or that of a relative / friend and this is very appealing
3. It is more about the time issue of having to take time out on a different day to the ceremony in order to obtain the legal marriage

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I do not have any insight into these scenarios

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe there will be many other venues available to couples and therefore a choice to suit all budgets and styles - definitely a plus point

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No idea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No idea

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not know what the impact is or the requirements in law right now

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

same as above

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No idea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

same as above

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

4. I believe most independent officiants would be interested and happy to pay towards being able to register and officiate legal marriage ceremonies.
5. I think with more choice couples could make choices concurrent with their budget

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDS2-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-27 16:30:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am responding as a private citizen with experience of working as a Ceremonies Officer in a County Council setting.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

no comment

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

no comment

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The CV19 pandemic led to an immediate shut down of wedding ceremonies. This was upsetting for many but widely understood. As 'lockdown' was eased the fallout increased as wedding couples were forced to make alternative arrangements to dates, venues, numbers etc. The registration service was at the forefront in ensuring that where possible ceremonies were conducted as near to the wishes of the couple as was legally possible. Through sheer hard work and force of character staff facilitated a large number of ceremonies whilst also maintaining their other legally mandated services to a heightened degree (birth and death registrations). The fact that a recognised, respected organisation like the registration service was dealing with the ever changing, sometimes confusing directives was hugely reassuring to each couple involved. They were assured that whatever the CV19 situation locally they were given accurate, honest and timely advice allowing them to make necessary decisions. This worked because under the current framework the registration service are the subject matter experts on these matters, have vast experience and have a robust organisation to turn to for specialised advice.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This part of the law does seem outdated. Many countries outside of England & Wales have a far shorter period of required residency (I was married in Mauritius where the requirement is just 3 days) without any detrimental effect. I believe that there should be a shortened period or a removal of this criteria.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement to notify in person in most circumstances is fundamental in the prevention of forced, coerced or sham marriages. The more personal interaction that is required ahead of a marriage does discourage the chances of unscrupulous activity.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days does seem to be a reasonable amount of time between interview and marriage. This gives individuals time to provide outstanding information or clarify issues. It also allows registration staff sufficient time to voice concerns and receive advice when necessary.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Virtual interviews do seem to be a realistic and sensible option that could be offered alongside face to face interviews. CV19 has proved that this can be successful in other areas. It would be important that specific safeguarding, security and data protection issues are in place and that registrars are empowered adequately to also require a face to face interview should there be any concerns. The provision of suitable IT and associated support would be essential to the success of any such option.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible for notice to be given outside of England & Wales under these circumstances. The world is a smaller more interconnected place and provided there are safeguards in place which ensure that persons giving notice outside of England & Wales are meet all other requirements for a legal marriage then this seems a reasonable way ahead.

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a matter for very careful handling. It is not uncommon for online data to be misused and persons put at financial, physical and emotional harm resulting from this misuse. It has to be asked does any benefit of online display outweigh the possible negative impacts. I do not believe that online display would be popular, required or brings any noticeable benefit to either authorities or individuals.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided there are no significant changes to the schedule then I see no reason as to not extending its validity. CV19 has proved that unexpected interruption to plans lead to a good deal of administrative burden and this simple change could be beneficial to all concerned.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The allocation of a fully trained and authorised officiate to each ceremony is not as simple as putting a name on a sheet of paper. Last minute, unexpected changes to celebrants are not uncommon and sometimes in an emergency celebrants can change right up to the time of the wedding. This proposed change simply adds an unnecessary level of bureaucracy which after all this consultation is trying to avoid. Again what benefit does this bring to the event and administration - it is difficult to see any.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous answer the current system allows for these circumstances already without the added bureaucracy. There is no benefit in changing this system.

Please share your views below:

As wedding ceremonies are conducted by two persons each with the same training, skills and knowledge they are already interchangeable as either deputy registrar or deputy superintendent registrar. here should not be any reason why substitute officiants need naming specifically on a schedule or by extension officially further authorised to act in other circumstances - they already can.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Provided banns published elsewhere in the constituent UK or Ireland are done so legally then there is no benefit to removing their use to authorise an Anglican wedding in England & Wales. Unnecessary bureaucracy and detrimental to the process.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In these very explicit circumstances the publishing of banns elsewhere seems a logical and fair solution. Without knowing the specifics relating to the rule it would seem right that banns should be published locally elsewhere.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It seems right that the church hosting the event published the banns but in a more secular age it could also be logical to have banns displayed in the registration office which covers the location of the church too. The purpose of banns is to invite those with knowledge that could alter the legality of the marriage so it could be wise to have them displayed alongside civil notifications.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The clergy should be required to do the same checks and balances on the couple as happens in the registration office. The marriage (civil or religious) is a legal contract and as such the venue of it should have no bearing on the legal requirement for pre-ceremony checks and assurances. This should extend to the meeting with individuals separately. The majority of sham and forced weddings take place in religious venues where checks are less robust. This loophole needs closing.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agreed. Anglican weddings should not have any different documentary or attendance requirements to civil ceremonies.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the Anglican preliminaries are exactly the same as for civil ceremonies then they should continue to be recognised. However, where religious staff are untrained or unwilling to do the necessary checks (personal and documentary) then the rules should be altered to make civil preliminaries the only acceptable form of legal preliminaries to a wedding.

This could lead to religious staff focussing only on the couples spiritual needs and the legal requirements looked after solely by the registration service which does seem a preferable solution.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current provisions are robust.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers currently provide a robust service at civil weddings.

Religious weddings should be provided by appropriate religious persons.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement to have two officers present at each wedding is a fundamental check on the legal requirements of each ceremony. At each stage the 'deputy registrar' whilst compiling the documentation is also paying close attention to contract wording and declarations whilst also providing guidance and support to both their colleague and the couple. Reducing to one member of staff gives rise to undiscovered mistakes, additional stress and strain on individual officials. When suspicious activity is discovered (suspected sham or forced marriage) the fact that there are two members of staff present allows situations to be dealt with safely whilst also complying to the legal requirements. Again there is no benefit to a change to the current law in this respect and there could be an increase in invalid marriages being conducted.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All registrations and marriage ceremonies should only be done by those who have had training. It is short sighted to change this element of the law.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For clarity and balance only authorised and trained registration staff should be empowered to conduct legally binding contracts of marriage. This ensures that religious beliefs are not taken into account and that the legality of the marriage contract is upheld and entirely neutral.

Under the current law religious groups other than CofE or CoW can conduct their own ceremonies in accordance with their beliefs but they are not legal ceremonies - they can then go on to have a simple signing of documents in the presence of a registrar to make the contract binding. This seems a fair recognition of both secular and religious beliefs and is consistent with the situation that the Church of England (and Wales) is the recognised state religious organisation of England and Wales and whilst this may not be palatable for many it is a fact.

Permitting any religious organisation to conduct these events which put the couples under significant legal obligations is a dangerous proposal. Some religions have practices surrounding equality, monogamy etc which may not be conducive to other areas of law and could invalidate and damage the sanctity of the institution of the marriage contract.

More work needs to be done before this proposal is given further consideration.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous answer I do not believe a change in the law is required in this area

Please share your views below:

This is a contentious and inflammatory proposal which will be challenged in the courts should it be enacted.

The current, simple organisation of the civil registration service or a non-binding religious ceremony (followed by a civil contract signing) encompasses all persons wanting to enter marriage and the legal obligations.

By allowing some groups to be defined as religious and some as non religious will cause anger and claims of bias and discrimination.

This is not an area where we need to be visiting.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous answers this proposal is seriously flawed. Simply getting a group of 20 people to agree to a belief system is not difficult. This could lead to thousands of tiny new religious organisations each needing legal checks and balances. The cost would be enormous, the benefit minute and the administration astronomical.

It would lead to further problems such as who keeps a register or members, what happens if a legally recognised groups membership falls to 19 or less, the practices change or beliefs alter.

This proposal is riddled with problems and again brings little or no overall benefit.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed. Any organisation or individual that promotes unlawful, immoral or purposes contrary to public policy does not earn the privilege to be involved in any way in the marriage ceremony or contract.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No - as per previous answer only fully qualified, trained and authorised staff should officiate at wedding ceremonies

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO should maintain a register of trained and authorised officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Having experienced two funeral ceremonies conducted by officiants appointed by a funeral director I was horrified as to the commercial bias in what was a very emotional event.

The current situation where local authority staff are recruited, trained, endorsed and monitored by their own organisation and validated randomly by the GRO works efficiently and robustly. There is no commercial incentive placed on staff by venues, retailers or wedding organisers and the focus is on ensuring that the legality of the marriage is forefront on the day. It is highly unlikely (as I have witnessed at funeral ceremonies) that the current standards will be maintained and that persons from outside of the local authority would not treat this as purely a business opportunity.

Currently one of the smallest expenses at a wedding is the legal elements and the services of the registrars. It is likely that the cost of a wedding will be further increased by the use of commercially motivated non-registration service staff.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:



It should be the GRO through local Superintendent Registrars that ensure that all staff involved in wedding ceremonies are fit and proper.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous answer I do not support the appointment of independent officiants. Whilst they may comply with the above proposal there is no provision for checks on training, service quality or cost effectiveness.

What benefit does this bring to the current system - none to the couple. Indeed this could in fact lead to further expense and administration

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nobody should be making money from the officiating of the wedding and contract therein.

I do not support the proposal for 'any tom, dick or harry' officiating at weddings as a reasonable element to updating the current laws.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous answer.

It would be virtually impossible for checks to be made to enforce this. It would be easy for somebody to charge the 'mandated' sum but then add on unofficial upgrades such as charging for readings or other non-legal elements of the ceremony.

This proposal offers the opportunity for profiteering through the backdoor with the victims being the couple, the sanctity of the contract and confidence in the system of marriage.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current system where celebrants are employees of a local authority or employed by the church works well. There are no conflicts of interest or belief. Changing the system is not required but in the event it should not be possible for a person to be independent and nominated, religious and non-religious. This would lead to profiteering and exploitation of the system.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the case now and there is no need to change.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the case now and there is no need to change

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - this is marking your own homework. The GRO should be the statutory body which ensures quality, training and standards.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the case now and should not be changed

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should the misguided decision be made on appointing 'tom, dick or harry' to officiate then the GRO should be responsible for their administration and conduct. This will of course lead to greater strains on budgets and personnel.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anybody officiating at a ceremony should have mandatory, periodic training to remain in date for their authorisation.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with the proposal to appoint independent officiants. However anybody who does not agree and comply with CPD should no longer be authorised.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The preliminaries give each person an opportunity to declare no impediments and this should continue for both civil and religious events. It should also form part of the public declaration which gives other parties an opportunity to object - this is a sensible precaution against sham/forced marriage. The schedule should contain a declaration which is available for those not having a public wedding ceremony. The marriage should be formed when all legal elements (declaration and contract) have been made and consent is given (by signature in the schedule or during the ceremony.)

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the legal framework is met the conduct of the ceremony is a personal matter to be agreed by all parties whilst upholding the sanctity and dignity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

During a civil ceremony elements such as religious music and some wording could be agreed in advance provided that it is agreed by all parties involved and it remains clearly a civil service.

Please share your views below:

Music

Non contract / legal wording

Poems and readings

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once married in a civil service what the couple then go on to do privately is not a matter for the law provided the contract is registered in only the civil register.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided access can be gained by members of the public who have legitimate reasons to be present then this is an outdated practice.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limits on where ceremonies take place for health and safety reasons, to uphold the sanctity of the event and to prevent sham/forced marriages.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

For reasons of health and safety and security weddings should not be conducted in private homes. It is unwise to have staff visiting premises which are so private that should issues arise their own wellbeing could be in jeopardy. Most houses are unsuitable for gatherings of this type, it would be difficult to police issues such as fire compliance, security and issues arising from illegal substances, drink or threatening behaviour.

Weddings on lakes or rivers should be possible provided all health, safety and security regulations are strictly enforced.

Weddings in the air on a large airliner would need to be strictly controlled to ensure that the requirement to have a legal address for the venue were met. Again health and safety implications do arise. Weddings on stunt and other aircraft should not be permitted.

Weddings outdoors in a suitable area of a beach, the grounds of a hotel or stately home or farm should be permitted provided all health, safety and security regulations could be met.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access to weddings is a fundamental pillar in the prevention of sham/forced marriage. Access should be available to all of those who may have legitimate reasons to complain.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Provided there is a clear definition within the ceremony itself as to it being a religious or non religious ceremony any authorised venue should be available to solemnise the wedding.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The responsibility should lie with the GRO and exercised through the local Superintendent Registrar. On the day of the ceremony if the venue is not acting in accordance with its licence then the ceremony officer should be given the delegated authority to postpone or cancel the ceremony.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is robustly enforced now

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We should all be singing from the same songsheet!

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - the local Superintendent Registrar should continue to police all venues to ensure compliance with the approved premises licence. Venues make considerable money from hosting weddings and current requirements are not onerous or difficult and are easy to comply with.

Please share your views below:

All venues hosting weddings should be licenced ahead of the event and inspected by the Superintendent Registrar on the authority of GRO. Anywhere proposing to host an event should apply well in advance, a visit arranged and a licence for the date of the event issued should all health and safety, security and other obligations be met. The licence should not be enduring but should be requested to cover each event for rarely used venues but the current annual licences for venues which host many events should continue. New venues such as river boats etc could request to become an enduring approved premises. Licences should cover all of the property including its gardens and all function areas

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an important and historically relevant document and should reflect venue, date and occupations as well as mother, father and parent.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should broaden the appeal in Wales

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a contentious issue and whilst the option should be retained it is not the right time for this step to be taken now.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All preliminary information should be correct, all options provided and all documentation and persons involved should be authorised and correct. Any or all issues of this kind should invalidate the contract. This is no different to many areas of contract law.

No

Please expand on your answer:

All aspects should be correct and there should be no erosion of the standard required or the whole system risks collapse.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous answer - all elements of the preliminaries should be correct.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided there is no suspicion of sham marriage, the preliminaries and contract is signed and the marriage is legal what happens after that is not the business of anybody except the couple.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You are either legally married or you aren't - the presumption is open to abuse.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nullity based on lack of consent restricted by time is a misnomer - the valid is either valid or it is null - time does not change that fact.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For the assurance of the institution of marriage and the seriousness of the marriage contract it is imperative that all those entering into marriage have 100% faith that the wedding is in respects legal and they are aware of the implications of it. Those that mislead in any way should be subject to harsh penalty to preserve this faith.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I am unaware of any

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would depend on the stage of progress of the disease. Those in the early stages could be physically able to be interviewed but those in the later stages may not be up to the task.

This should be done with a high level of discretion on the part of the Superintendent Registrar

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

RG Licences are not routinely used but are a useful tool in some extreme circumstances.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

CV 19 has proved the need to extend schedules when necessary - if they are made valid for 12m then this would avoid the need for short extensions/re-schedules but there should always be scope for national emergency rules to extend these further

Civil preliminaries could be remote if it is impossible for elements to be conducted face to face provided provisions are made for the parties to be required to attend face to face if there is suspicion of sham / forced marriage

Fully remote ceremonies are fraught with problems and should not be permitted.

I do not support the signing of the schedule by all parties remotely or on separate documents as this could lead to marriage fraud and there are no checks in place to prevent sham/forced marriage

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings on vessels at sea in the territorial waters should be permitted provided the vessel meets the health and safety and security provisions and that is conducted only by authorised registration service staff.

Opening this up to ships staff or other celebrants brings with it the problems already alluded to in previous answers

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To be married under the protection of the laws of England and Wales should require that the wedding is conducted within that territory only. There could be challenges where the law of England and Wales is broadly in place but there are local laws which contradict or override. It is a costly exercise to explore each such territory and brings limited benefit to the couple but could also lead to commercial exploitation.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Warships of HM Royal Navy for persons serving on that vessel provided there is MOD approval and the marriage is conducted by a member of registration service staff.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with this proposal

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous answers I do not agree that staff outside of the employees of a local authority registration service should be authorised to conduct ceremonies

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that weddings should be conducted by other than registration service staff

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous response

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not as far as I am aware

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is insensitive and unnecessary

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

There is a case for compassion in this area

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Choice is the key - many register offices are equal to or better than much more expensive commercial venues. They offer a range of ceremony/non-ceremony styles to suit most people

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although there is some case for compassion in this

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

There is room of compassion in these cases

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law is fair and robust although there are some areas which require updating and clarification as my answers in this consultation reflect. I believe that the current law is generally well understood and does not discourage marriage (it is on the increase!). Some of the proposals are sound and should further encourage couples to become legally married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The legal end of the marriage ceremony is one of the smallest cost considerations that couples have to deal with. Marriage has become an enormous business which has led to some significant cost implications - this is what puts people off. The costs of a wedding at a register office is reasonable for the majority of people and most offices are elegant and well presented and a very good place to marry. The costs of marrying in an approved premises can be significant and that is why so many are keen to apply for a licence. Despite the cost couples flock to them and they offer a wide variety of choice - but you do have to pay for it! The cost of marrying in a religious setting is comparable to a register office. Places not currently authorised but could be under the proposals will simply become another place for people to spend more money should they wish to do so. The key is that currently couples have a choice to suit themselves and their budget. The cost of the legal requirements for wedding ceremony are reasonable, straightforward and supportable - the events thereafter are where the commercialisation and pressure to spend lie. Proposals to add additional costs such as independent officiants are unwelcome and will not be appreciated and simply add to yet more criticism of the laws.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Availability of register office weddings is a key tenet of a couples choice for their ceremony. It is essential that they are quality venues in their own right and offer the best possible standard to each couple. They are affordable for most and offer a range of simple and enhanced options for couples. There is some room for change to current laws surrounding where people can marry but the cost savings of any changes should not counteract the requirement for the prevention of sham and forced marriages, the health, safety and security of staff and attendees and the dignity of the event. I do not believe that marriage in private homes is a sound proposal nor some other proposed venue. However, it has to be said that an approved premises licence should include the whole venue and its grounds as it is unjustifiable for a room to be licenced but not a rose garden at the same address. The necessity to have a separate wedding ceremony is fundamental to the sanctity of the event and underlines the serious nature of the contract which is being undertaken - this can so easily be lost in the rush and hubbub of organising the whole day.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



The cost of an approved premises licence is minor when balanced against the revenue that is generated by each event that it leads to. The current costs are reasonable and for premises willing to comply with the criteria - which are simple and not expensive - are a clear investment. Many venues would not be viable without the income generated by holding an approved premises licence. The cost of the attendance of registrars to each premises is small compared to the income generated. For each wedding there are always registration officers available as rotas are closely monitored and fulfilled. For couple AP provide choice but at a significant cost. The danger of using independent ceremony officers is that this cost will simply rise and cannot be checked.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Pre approval is an essential check against sham and forced marriage - changes will encourage people trafficking and exploitation of the vulnerable. I do not see any proposals which are necessary to change the availability of registration officers for civil weddings but I do see proposals which risk a dilution of quality and choice with an increase in expense to each couple if independent officiants are permitted. Venues are well served by quality staff currently - do not try to fix an unbroken system in this area. Extending the use of gardens and other currently not approved venues will undoubtedly bring business opportunity. Provided this is of benefit to marrying couples then this is to be applauded. But anything that increases the costs of a wedding unjustifiably should be avoided.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Other than possible redundancies in registration staff should proposals for independent and costly private celebrants be approved I have nothing to add

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Increase in licencing revenue should other areas be approved to host weddings

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Limited - most people wish to marry at home or at a venue overseas

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs to local government/LA : redundancy payments and then benefit payments to staff not required if independent replacements are used. Costs outweighed by the revenue generated by making more areas usable for weddings

Couples will pay more for independent officiants and for increased choice at venues.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD5C-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-28 15:56:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Methodist Circuit

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am responding in a personal capacity not as a representative of the Methodist Church. I am concerned that if comments are attributed to me they may be seen as a statement from the church

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

This has never been an issue for me

I have had a request to officiate at a wedding in the bedroom of a grand parent who was terminally ill so she could witness the wedding. A blessing was offered in that situation as, without seeking a special licence, it could not happen under the current laws.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Weddings at which I should have officiated during the pandemic have all been postponed due to the very limited number of guests allowed. Couples have been unable to decide which relatives they would invite even if they did not include any friends. Two were rearranging when the limit of 30 was introduced but had to postpone again when the limit dropped to 15.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

With families now widespread couples want to have a ceremony in a place meaningful to them but to have to be there for 7 days before giving notice can take up most of a years holiday allowance allowing little time off before and after the wedding.

I would therefore favour 'resident in any English or Welsh registration district' rather than just the one in which the ceremony will take place. Whilst this would still cause difficulty for people returning from abroad for the ceremony it may help to avoid some arranged marriages or other marriages of convenience.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to see at least 14 days to allow a 'cooling off period' for anyone feeling pushed into a marriage - except in exceptional circumstances such as a terminal illness.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If remotely means video call I see no reason why not. I would be hesitant at just a phone call.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Definitely Scotland. If both are relevant nationals or exempt from immigration control then could be from any country not just Commonwealth or territories.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this, providing the amended schedule is available. My concern would be if the officiant was ill on the day. At present, as a Methodist Minister, another minister registered in the registration district can substitute at very short notice. Could such last minute substitutions be incorporated in some way? (I've now read the next question!)

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Last minute illnesses / disasters happen and need to be covered in some way.

Please share your views below:

I would like to see 'family bereavement' added to the list above. A substitute should be able to act in other circumstances but in that case there should be time for an amended schedule to be issued.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would prove very difficult for people close to the borders in particular where the couple may live in different countries but only 10 miles apart.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know enough about Anglican banns to comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I hesitate to comment as I don't know enough about the Anglican system. I would prefer to see notice given in the same way for all weddings. If all were online then banns read just in the church where the wedding is to take place would be acceptable. If not also published on line then banns in the place of residence as well as where the wedding takes place would seem reasonable

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I would prefer all couples to give notice by the same means which would make this irrelevant but if it remains at just the clergy authorising then yes to both points, or 'have the power to refer to the local registration office for authorisation before banns are published'.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This would seem to be reasonable

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Given the complexity of possible 'convenience marriages' making an assessment of whether a marriage should take place or not is a lot to put on clergy who at the same time seek to be pastoral to those involved. Having had a situation (as a Methodist Minister) where investigations needed to take place it was good that the registration office were able to deal with that whilst I continued to give pastoral care to the couple. The dual role would have been very difficult.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I note the 'should need to' which I read as allowing more than one to be present if required eg with a new member of clergy who wants reassurance that all has been done correctly.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree with this as long as it wasn't a process which required constantly renewing and especially if, in the case I'm familiar with, the Methodist Church could authorise ministers 'for as long as they are stationed as an active minister and listed as such in the minutes of conference'.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't feel equipped to answer this question

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if that refers to the organisation nationally rather than in each individual church.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I have reservations about this. To give one example. The law says we should not discriminate by various things including sexuality. Some religious groups (not me personally) would not be comfortable conducting a wedding of a same sex couple - yet that could be argued to be against the law and prevent any officiants being nominated.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I would agree with this providing the office included training as an officiant.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a process would need to include some scrutiny process. There have been cases where someone has enabled a 'marriage of convenience' to take place. Being able to 'self nominate' as a consultant would seem to open a loophole which could be easily exploited.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This depends what is seen as profit. Different size churches have hugely different running costs so the same fees might be charged in 2 places in one being seen as making a profit, in the other making a loss. Therefore some distinction as to what is classed as profit would be helpful.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to see a maximum fee set for simply officiating. Clearly further costs could be added depending on 'added extra's' provided.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree someone should only be nominated by one or the other but that it should not prevent an independent person conducting a ceremony including elements of faith or a religious person conducting a ceremony with little or no mention of faith.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to see the means of 're-authorisation' after a period of further training being possible.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing there is some point of reference locally or the General registrar who can be looked to for advice

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would be reluctant for there not to be witnesses



Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a commitment to each other which I believe should mean the couple cohabit. Exceptions should be made in the case of someone who dies before that has happened.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I see no problem with these laws- ensuring that no one is coerced into marriage

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That has to depend on the nature of the illness. Ideally this should be the case but I think of someone diagnosed with a brain tumour who died 24 hours later. Had that been a weekend it would be unlikely an interview could take place.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

If such weddings are to be allowed then yes religious belief weddings should be allowed. eg by the padre of a military vessel

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDSN-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-28 19:42:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

A friends wedding plans had to be put on hold as the numbers were so restricted it was not the wedding they had dreamed of

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes sometime people work abroad and it is difficult for them to keep coming back to England to sort paperwork out using holidays and the expense of flights

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow the process to start while the couple were out of England or busy working and then have an interview at a more convenient time

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Most people would be back home by this point and it would also allow time to correct any errors if there were any before the day

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I don't think this would help prevent forced marriages as it would be difficult to detect if there was anyone else in the background. If this option was not available to everyone and only used for ethnic groups then a prejudice of racism could be perceived

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be good as then you could view who was getting married regardless of where they had given notices

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a year seems enough time to be married

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

what if it was a registrar or clergy member that might change could it say registrar , vicar, priest of whatever religion if they are to be given automatic right to conduct weddings

if it was someone independent then their name would have to be shown as the list would need to be checked presumably to show they are able to do a legal wedding

would having to have a new schedule not create a lot of extra work and running around for the couple and what would happen if they could not get a new one

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this is the case who would check that that person was legally able to do the wedding

Please share your views below:

If a substitute could act in any other circumstances how is there any control over if the substitute was legally able to do the wedding would this not be open to fraud and scam

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

all couple should have to follow the same legal preliminaries to get married so no one can say that they are being treated any different, as you have suggested all notices would be published on a data base how could anyone know if a church of England/Wales wedding was happening

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why would this be necessary if all couple followed the same legal preliminaries to get married no one can say that they are being treated any different, banns could still be called in church if the couple/church wished

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

All couple should have to follow the same legal preliminaries to get married so no one can say that they are being treated any different, It would be up to the church/couple if they wished to have banns displayed as this would not be the legal entitlement for the wedding to proceed

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

If the banns are going to be the legal framework then documentary evidence should be mandatory as should a separate meeting to mirror the civil requirement and prevent sham forced marriages

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

this would seem a fairer system if all couples followed the same preliminaries recorded on one system/database than having 2 different ways. Allowing the COE COW to have a separate system appears to have a class system entitlement that other faiths could resent

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this would show that a legal ceremony was taking place to anyone attending

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They do a great job now so this would seem appropriate as a way to continue they are accountable to the Council they work for and have been thoroughly vetted before employed so trustworthy and easy to contact and have assurance that they are monitored and trained appropriately

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem sensible and a potential way to reduce fees the couple pay if only one required

If the council felt some situations would form a Health and safety or duty of care that 2 should be present but this would not be accounted for in any fees

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

would they be named on schedule and would there be a list for couples to check they had the legal status to marry and what would happen if they moved churches

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem all churches have a governing body as do the humanist society so that would be an appropriate route to go down

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it was recognised

Please share your views below:

Political Organisations

Sects / cults

Racists Organised parties

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that is what happens now

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes it seems inappropriate

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes this would seem sensible



a title could be used clerk in holy orders , priest , vicar, imam etc

not sure if independent celebrant Humanist should have this extended to them

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this would enable everyone to only need to look at one list

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I can understand the humanist society being granted the ability to conduct legal weddings but have reservations around individuals being given the same authority

Individuals may not be so easy to monitor and may have more issues around what happens if that one individual is unable to officiate on the day

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Background checks DBS or similar

Non-bankrupt clause

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would not advocate independent Officiants being given the authority to conduct a legal wedding however if they are then I would agree stringent measures would need to be in place and they would need to be continually monitored as I believe there is no requirement for them to be a part of a governing body

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However they should be able to recover all costs related to any marriage from visits , pre wedding training, planning service/script, time on the day , travel costs etc

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There has to be a level playing field for anyone who is going to officiate at a wedding regardless of the status i.e. church, faith group, registrars. So enhancement fees should be able to be charged by all and then it would be up to the couple to choose according to their requirements and budgets. eg register offices have lovely rooms and extra ceremony choices that the couple can use as one of my friends did and another had to pay to use the church bells choir and have flowers

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem appropriate and it would give clarity to couples around the choice they were making

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

otherwise marriage is devalued

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

General Register Office have vast expertise in this area

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should also be an avenue to report a concern to General Register Office

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Necessary measure to have in place

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure that there is a requirement for independents to be part of any governing body if not should this be a requirement

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that they have participated in ongoing training and adopted policy and procedure changes required

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this is very important to be a requirement if independents are given permission to conduct legal ceremonies although I have strong reservations around independents and the risk of fraud and financial risks to couples

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that at this final stage that no impediment to the marriage is established in some form in either a written or verbal statement

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as long as this is upholding the dignity of marriage and clearly shows a legal and binding commitment is being made

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple would be required to satisfy the group performing the ceremony

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are some things that my friend would have liked including in her wedding that were religious and not able to be part of the script she chose. Lots of people do not go to church but remember readings or songs from childhood that are actually religious

Please share your views below:

My friend wanted to have and to hold in sickness and health till death us do part but I think could not have this as it is used in church so wrote her one vows

Christmas weddings where a carol could be sung like deck the halls

verses from the bible Love is patient and kind

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should that not be available as the choice of the couple

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Think it is important that only invited guests can attend

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as permission is sought for the location to be used and a risk assessment has been done and the dignity of marriage is upheld

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

If in the air what would be recorded on the schedule as the place of marriage

Is this really a dignified way to uphold the ceremony of ,marriage

If a couple wish to have a ceremony in the air then it should be a celebration and a legal ceremony conducted on land

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Invited guest only should be allowed to attend and it may be a family home that it would be inappropriate for anyone not invited to attend or request it for their wedding

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple have chosen a religious building presumably they have a belief linked to that building and would want the ceremony to reflect that belief.

I would not think that religious bodies would wish civil ceremonies to take place

Some form of restrictions should be therefore in place to have religious ceremonies in religious buildings and civil ceremonies in non religious buildings and the couple choose which is appropriate for them.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance from General Register Office on managing a risk assessment  
Dignity of the marriage ceremony  
Permission to use the building /area has been approved

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Risk assessments in place  
Non offensive in dress actions and words

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes this should be provided

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem appropriate that venues could have something to promote in their wedding packages to show that they had been pre approved

Please share your views below:

Could the local authority or general register office hold the approval list as I believe happens now

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes and then this can be recorded

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couple choice not all marriage taking place in Wales are presumably for couples who speak the welsh language

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Reservations that this would be open to fraud however if enough security assurance then potentially an option

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes controls must be in place to protect all parties involved

No

Please expand on your answer:

I understand that measures should be in place to protect those couple who genuinely thought everything had been done correctly however everyone is aware that witnesses are required and that you must sign paperwork so am not sure why this would be required

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

measures should be in place to protect couples

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would appear then to give protection to both parties should the marriage be dissolved and in the case of those persons detained in prison cohabitation may not be an option

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple know they have not done any legal preliminaries or been through any form of marriage ceremony regardless of them cohabiting or the assumption friends and family have made

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why does there need to be a limit

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Must be consequences of this to protect the couple who think they are having a legal wedding

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

same requirements should apply to all legal weddings

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure why this is necessary as the system allows a legal wedding to take place with no waiting period which is essential if someone is dying

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure my understanding that this option is already available if no urgency is required

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would simplify the process and take pressure to do quickly away if this was not a consideration

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lots of couples have had to delay weddings during the current pandemic and are having to re-do official paperwork causing stress and sometimes extra expense of having to pay again or lose time at work

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consider who thought this pandemic would last as long and the difficulties to getting married during this year

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many people were just generally frightened that they were in a vulnerable group and wanted to get married quickly

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

would offer additional options to couples with a maritime connection or an opportunity for a company to start a marriage cruise ship business

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would give couples additional options

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

A large yacht or boat that would enable boat owners to diversify their business and generate income

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be a crew member/ captain / the owner who were appointment as officiants of the boat and these may change

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be limited to ships crew members

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would enable same background checks controls and training to be in place and monitoring to taken

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

would mean that controls would be in place to ensure the protection of all involved

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Ships often have a Chaplin so there may be a demand however what controls could be in place I am not sure, so maybe the wedding should be a legal maritime officiant and a blessing if the couple choose

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As couples may be on an extended cruise or travel it would be difficult to set a time limit of less than 1 year

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The cost recovery would need to take account of the travel time and mileage involved as some areas of the county are very rural the time taken at the location as this paperwork may take much longer to complete especially if involve going into prisons

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

It is not always the case that those who are terminally ill have financial difficulties however could the council have the facility to reduce in cases of hardship I note the fee at present is a quarter of what a couple getting married pay so if looking at a fee on compassionate grounds then should this be that the one person pays the standard fee and no fee is charged for the terminally ill person.

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided this fee is on a cost recovery basis and does not put a burden on the council and other council tax payers of the area. I don't want to subsidise a wedding out of my council tax paid or have people from another area having a wedding subsidised when they do not pay any council tax at all

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this should be charged and set as areas of the country are very rural and will take longer to get to and have extra fuel costs

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this should be charged and set as areas of the country are very rural and will take longer to get to and have extra fuel costs. It may however be useful to have a national timeframe for how long the approval would last would it be an annual fee ?

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should this also take into account time meeting couples ,planning the wedding, script preparation and any rehearsals provided

It should be based on what an independent celebrants / humanist could do if they are given the authority to officiate a legal wedding so that healthy competition is created and couples can then make their own choice based on the services offered

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this means that as in the case of my friend who had a lovely candle ceremony that the registrar included with the choice of them writing their own vows which they did at the hotel when they got married is still an option

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem appropriate incorporating time and travel involved

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Not all couples have financial difficulties however there should be an option to not charge fees that the registrar in charge could make

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is in the interests of the officiant to have this recognition should they wish to officiate at ceremonies and a cost recovery basis seems appropriate

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe that the current law prevents couples getting married and I am not sure that the proposals would increase those getting married, it would however offer greater choice in where they could marry

Consultation Question 86:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Having looked at costs when helping my friends plan their weddings it really was down to budget

Register office weddings in our area were very reasonably priced and had lovely facilities in a listed building with the option for one of my friends to go for a low cost late afternoon mid week wedding and then they hired the village hall and catered a buffet and disco so did not have an expensive day at all.

Another friend looked at the hotel wedding and decided that was the option for her saving money on wedding cars as she stayed the night before as part of the package and didn't feel the fees charged by the registrar's were not worth it for all the additional choices she could put into the ceremony  
I can see that it would be a good idea to allow families to use their homes and large gardens if they have them to have a legal wedding so maybe the weddings would take place in more locations rather than increase in numbers and offer couples more choice on what to spend their budget on.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not sure on savings as the legal wedding wherever it took place would have a cost

The fee for having a legal wedding before a non legal ceremony in a location not currently allowed would be saved however whoever was doing the legal ceremony would still set a fee so there may be no saving involved

I think the fee for being a recognised venue is paid by the venue and in my area seems quite reasonable so not sure how this would benefit the couple unless the hotels pass a fee onto those using the venue

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It may be that more venues think about having weddings some who could accommodate small weddings that would think it easier not having to have the approved status if they are just asked to do a few weddings a year

Community facilities, village halls, restaurants and small business may feel that they could hold weddings if the fee to be pre approved and have less restrictions

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

venues may feel that they would have greater choice on who could conduct a legal wedding however it would be important that in looking at all the options available competition is fair for all those who could officiate at weddings whatever their status church, humanist, registrars and celebrants

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Looking at the proposals and fees structure it may have a financial impact on local Authorities if they are not allowed to compete for the ceremonies outside of the register office which could lead to job losses in those authorities that have invested into staffing to cover this area. Also if all ceremonies have to be registered at the register office the demand to do this work would be high and the cost of delivering this does not seem to be mentioned

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My friends dealt with a local authority who have a ceremony team and they found it great that they could talk and email with the same staff about their big day and found them to be supportive all the way from enquiring to the big day and even getting a congratulations follow up after the wedding.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think that it would appear to make the process much easier for those who live abroad to organise a legal wedding in England and Wales without the need for in person visits to sort paperwork and if only have to be here a few days before the wedding it will mean saving money of trips back home to their families if working or living abroad

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think that it would appear to make the process much easier for those who live abroad to organise a legal wedding in England and Wales without the need for in person visits to sort paperwork and if only have to be here a few days before the wedding it will mean saving money of trips back home to their families if working or living abroad

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I believe that this may be an issue as lots of vessels are registered outside of England and Wales

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no knowledge

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Local authorities who have invested in staff for the weddings may be forced to look at potential redundancies within the service particularly if independent celebrants can perform a legal ceremony.

Businesses like hotels may face more competition for the wedding market if ceremonies can be held anywhere this could be a major blow to the hospitality industry who have suffered so much as a result of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions.

Small business may attract weddings such as caterers who could deliver food to all locations. If family gardens are large enough or a field with marquee hired then pop up services could attend i.e. prosecco cart, ice cream cart mobile fish and chip van or hog roasts.

Religious organisations may not be affected as if religion is an important factor it will still remain so

The humanist society would like to be able to hold a legal ceremony as would independent celebrants if tight controls were in place this could be an option however I have reservations on this being open to fraud

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD87-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-29 15:33:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

None

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If either party is not the Registrar should be required to remind them that the lack of recent connection with England or Wales may affect the validity of the marriage in the eyes of the law and the authorities of their home jurisdiction. "Proceed at your own risk".

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the parties are required when they meet in-person to provide photo ID. I was not when I got married but that was in 1979!

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I have no views on the matter.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, no, and no again. There is nothing like meeting in person to pick up any sense of something wrong. This suggestion would put Registrars in an invidious position and would probably lead to allegations of racism.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No view.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And I have my doubts about the exception. Since 1753 one of the aims of the law has been to avoid clandestine marriages!

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I remain of the view that all marriages should be by the Registrar with whatever religious ceremony the parties want to follow.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See CQ 11.

Please share your views below:

See CQ 11.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If banns are to be retained I see no value in this suggestion.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's a bit late . . .

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

no views

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes and yes, if Anglican preliminaries are to be retained. Essential.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes if common licences are to be retained.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries and then be civil in form and before the Registrar.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be before the Registrar, who should then provide if the parties ask for it a special copy of the certificated overprinted with an R - on the strength of which (and only on the strength of which) any religious ceremony the parties choose could follow.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A necessary conclusion from my previous answer.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If religious marriages are to continue, yes of course.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If marriage has to be before the Registrar it is not important to the State or to the public who can then conduct a religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No, for the same reason.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No view.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All these No answer are based on my view that marriage should be by and before the Registrar only.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But all this should happen before the Registrar.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, assuming that the marriage before the Registrar has taken place first.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage before the Registrar should be civil and secular only. What the parties then do at any religious ceremony is a matter for them.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Manifestly not: but the law needs to be made crystal clear that the ceremony before the Registrar is in and of itself a complete marriage, whether or not there is a religious follow-up.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Civil ceremony in the Registrar's office. Subsequent ceremony wherever the parties choose.

Please share your views below:

See previous answer.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The true marriage should be that before the Registrar and strictly civil and secular.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Welsh only, which would be inconvenient to non-Welsh speaking family in a later generation.

Moreover: It should be possible to get a certificate in English only of a marriage in Wales whenever it took place. My parents were married in Wales in 1944 because my father was stationed there - they had no other connection with Wales - and a certificate which is not entirely in English is not always acceptable to the authorities of countries where they've never heard of Wales!

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no such thing as absolute electronic security.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Failure 1 should lead to a non-qualifying ceremony.

Of course: if my proposal is followed - that all marriages be celebrated in civil form before the Registrar - any purported ceremony not so celebrated will be non-qualifying.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See Q57

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable if only the Registrar can celebrate a marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This presumption finds its origins in the days when much of the population was illiterate. It is absurd now.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very much so. The case of Bham should be reversed. Clerics celebrating ceremonies of marriage where there has been no civil ceremony should be prosecuted and if they use a place of worship the rating relief on that place of worship should be withdrawn.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I understands the idea, but I find the idea absurd. There are some things you can do online and some you cannot and getting marries in in the second group.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no harm in it as long as what is meant is the unofficial ceremony which should be allowed after the marriage before the Registrar.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no harm in it as long as what is meant is the unofficial ceremony which should be allowed after the marriage before the Registrar.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I see no harm in it as long as what is meant is the unofficial ceremony which should be allowed after the marriage before the Registrar.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because I do not see such marriages as being the subject of notice. Certainly the officer of the vessel should be required to have sight of the certificate with the R overprint which I proposed earlier.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would not arise in my scheme.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And indeed that no other form of marriage should have any legal effect whatsoever.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

You do not offer an option of "same fee as any other marriage outside the office" which is what I would have ticked.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would have no officiants.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There is a problem with non-qualifying religious ceremonies, and the provisional proposals do nothing to solve it. The solution can only be to insist that all marriages are by and before the Registrar, with religious ceremony to follow if the parties wish. The change in practice would of course have to be well

publicised.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of a basic marriage before the Registrar is modest as it is. I doubt if it discourages anyone. The problem lies with couples who choose to disregard the need for it.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDSU-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-29 15:41:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Ceremonies

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Answer not applicable as I am an Independent Celebrant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Answer not applicable as I am an Independent Celebrant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Answer not applicable as I am an Independent Celebrant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Answer not applicable as I am an Independent Celebrant

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Answer not applicable as I am an Independent Celebrant

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All my weddings have been postponed due to the virus

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This varies widely across the world and so the UK should use the same approach as, say, USA. There the couple register their marriage at their local courthouse and are then free to have the ceremony in any way they like within 60 days.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the light of the rise in sham marriages, and marriages under duress I think this is important

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Thinking about all the preparation that goes into a wedding, the last week can be pretty hectic, so a minimum of 7 days seems realistic

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure that this would work, but it is possible to consider it

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If notice is to be given online, with the 'in person' meeting a minimum of 7 days before the ceremony, I do not see why this would be a problem.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's old-fashioned these days to have the notices displayed on a screen on the entrance of the register office

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add here

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Law Commission review is all about providing choice and flexibility, so I agree with this

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous reply

Please share your views below:

Unsure as to what other circumstances this might apply to

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add here

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, absolutely. The notice for a registrar ceremony is published only in the register office where the couple gave notice, so the same rule should apply

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The church must have input on this. As an independent celebrant I am unable to comment

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

The church must have input on this. As an independent celebrant I am unable to comment

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The church must have input on this. As an independent celebrant I am unable to comment

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not clear what you mean by this - if all Independent celebrants were trained to become registration officers then this would work, but not if a 2 tier system was still in place

Consultation Question 21:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Independent Celebrants  
Humanists  
Quakers

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I believe that the individual should be licenced and trained to legally register marriages, not the whole body, unless the body can prove training has taken place.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as that is a limit of their control - simply to keep a list, not to be a part of the selection or governing process. Unfortunately, some registration offices have behaved unethically and even unlawfully as they perceive independent celebrants to be 'competition'.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No comment to make here

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

no comment to add

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

only agree in part - the adding of occupations seems archaic and unnecessary

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

At times, it may not be possible to have the statutory amount of time between giving notice and the actual marriage, due to individual circumstances

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no comment to add

### Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

no comment to add

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be a reasonable time frame imposed

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but the availability of a Basic Registration must be made easier to find on many local authorities websites, and this should still be available to all if this is the style of wedding they wish to have

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

an independent celebrant is able to do this without a fee being levied

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

this prohibits many venues from offering weddings, as the cost is beyond them

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not clear what is meant by this question

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as this doesn't become unrealistically expensive, and once done, it's done and is not a regular expense. Many independent celebrants are sole traders, and can do without unnecessary expanse.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Couples want to be married on the same day as their celebration ceremony, rather than separate the two. It seems ridiculous in this age, and in comparison to other countries, that this choice is not made available to couples unless they want to have the registrar out to their venue. But there are many restrictions with a registrar-led ceremony, - time, content, location, ability to personalise, include some religion if wanted, that they are forced to separate the two if they don't want 'one size fits all' ceremony. I don't believe the current law actually discourages couples from getting married, but just affects the way in which they do it. It isn't common knowledge among most couples that it isn't a straight choice between church or registrar, so including independent celebrants is vital to ensure no discrimination and freedom of choice. I am unsure whether there would be an increase in the numbers of couples getting legally married, but there would without doubt be an increase in those choosing a celebrant-led ceremony if that celebrant could also carry out the legal aspect of the marriage.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Often, local register offices 'hide' the Basic registration on their websites, so it is not in plain sight. However this is legally available to all and so should be clearly displayed in the same way as say, registering a birth. The principle is the same.
2. The costs of marrying on approved premises is about the same whether it's a registrar or a celebrant. The difference being that if the couple decide on a bespoke celebrant ceremony, they must still have their legal registration carried out at the register office in order to be entered into the register, making the whole process more expensive. To bring the registrar out at an approved premises costs similar to this, but the same ceremony is offered, for which they have to pay only circa £50 if they do this separately a day or so before the celebration ceremony.
3. I cannot comment on the costs of church weddings.
4. Many locations that offer weddings are not licensed due to the prohibitive costs of becoming so, with many hoops to jump through and a repeated expense every few years. By allowing the person (in this instance, the celebrant) to be licensed, this opens up so much choice and flexibility for the couple to have their ceremony, their way.
5. See above

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I've covered much of this in the previous answer

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Frequently, the venue has availability, but the registrar does not, so an obvious choice would be to employ a celebrant. Some couples however, don't want to do this when they discover that it will have to be done in two separate ceremonies. This adds to their costs and takes something away from their

wish to be legally married on the same day.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

mostly answered above - the benefits to all of these - venues, celebrants, availability, business opportunities - not forgetting the increase in choice for their special day - is massive.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

nothing further to add here

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

if independent celebrants are permitted to carry out legal marriages as part of their bespoke ceremonies, then this frees the Registration Service to do what it does best - to concentrate on maintaining the register of births, marriages and deaths. It reduces their costs as they will not have to employ, train and pay registrars to attend approved premises, and limits their working week to Monday-Friday. This opens up many opportunities for the couple, the venues and for independent celebrants.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many couples go to Scotland or choose destination weddings to circumvent England's laws.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

as above

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment to add

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment to add

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The costs to local authorities should decrease as they will no longer need to employ, train and pay registrars to deliver ceremonies at approved premises. To businesses, also a decrease, as they will not need to register as an Approved Venue and find the associated costs for doing this.

Can't comment about religious organisations

As long as any required additional training to train independent officiants to provide legally recognised marriages was not prohibitive or repetitive, then this should not present an obstacle.

For couples, it makes everything simpler, easier, and less costly.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8V-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-10-29 16:32:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Please withhold my e.mail address

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am widowed but may re-marry

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

From friends I found the current registration service the most convenient way to marry

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement allows time to think and not marry indiscriminately. It also helps against forced marriages

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Time to consider getting married

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All interviews should be face to face so as not to discriminate

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This practise should continue

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This allows anyone to legally object

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives time to give notice and then book wedding venues, caterers etc

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All officiant teams are trained to give an excellent ceremony and they wear name badges if there is any complaint. If the couple can specify a change there could be a charge of compliance for a forced or illegal marriage.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if sanctioned by GRO

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All part of the United Kingdom

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

These should be on line

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

A meeting should take place

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both of the couples should attend the meeting

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

One authorising authority

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One authority on the day. Current registrar system should remain

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers should be the authority at all ceremonies

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One registrar and one to take the ceremony therefore two.

This maintains the authority of the marriage

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Tradition

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Authority must be maintained to stop false weddings

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

An official list should be publicised but no pseudo religions as will lack authority

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sincere beliefs can change thus making the vows unacceptable

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Exclude

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO is a central organisation for records so no mistakes are made

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will be the same as Scotland and the USA

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without doubt

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a true and proper service to the population.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Standard fees should be charged. Regulated by the government

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One organisation

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Policing by a true and proper organisation

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Confirming proof of marriage

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To some people this confirms the marriage

Please share your views below:

Mention of God, Jesus, Allah etc is fine but must not fall into a religious ceremony in entirety.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allow anyone to object legally

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If health and safety checked

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All ok

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Legal objection must always be allowed

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Trained to do so

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local register office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

security is never very good especially remote venues

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses and signing paramount proof of a legal marriage

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problems

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties agree confirmed

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

GRO control

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who knows what may happen

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Must be in UK waters

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not that I know

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think the currensituation does not discourage or prevents couples from getting married and I do not think it would encourage any extra couples getting married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs could be a barrier but as long as fees recover costs and no profit results it is the fairest way of getting married officially.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The benefits of marrying in a register office is that all ceremonies are the same or similar. When they are held at a venue the couple will attempt to outdo their friends and show off causing each new couple to spend more than perhaps they can afford.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See previous answer

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This gives the couple a choice within legal barriers

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More revenue

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not as well regulated as it should be

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Always extra cost to administer

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD82-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-02 20:05:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Skipton Boat Trips

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

We would love to provide this service for our customers! We have many people ask us about getting married on the boat each year

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDWZ-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-03 15:45:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

+ [REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Confidentiality is not required

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

When we wanted to wed we only had the option of a civil partnership. When we wanted to convert our civil partnership to a marriage we only had the option of a dreadful Register Office interview.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All the weddings I was due to conduct have been postponed to 2021 or 2022. I have had some new bookings for 2020 where couples have been unable to secure a Registrar for their preferred date so they are having their ceremony and are completing the legal registration on an alternative date. In Gloucestershire the Register Office has no capacity to book any more 2020 weddings. Many couples are discovering celebrants for the first time and are delighted with what an independent celebrant can offer them - in a Covid compliant way of course

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This places unnecessary limits on couples who wish to marry in a beloved place they do not live in, for example a former home, favourite holiday destination

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We live in an on line world - the law needs to move with the times

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This allows necessary paperwork to be drawn up.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

of course - we live in a digital age, people are used to working remotely. I think it should be an option - it wont suit everyone

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, lets make life easier and the process less convoluted

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as previously - we live in a digital age - the marriage laws need to reflect this

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

12 months is a fair and reasonable length of time under normal circumstances

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes so long as the couple have the right to choose their own officiant

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Please share your views below:

I think the reasons already noted are sufficient

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

lets make the system uniform across all marriage institutions

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

on line publication of notice - uniform across religious and civil weddings

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

easier to have civil proceeding first

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes I think they should

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

easier to have one system

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

it is critical that Independent celebrants are afforded the same rights as Humanist celebrants and should be able to officiate legal marriage

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

it is critical that Independent celebrants are afforded the same rights as Humanist celebrants and should be able to officiate legal marriage.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The description is too narrow and doesn't fit well with the description of independent celebrant bodies

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

of course - the organisations must be acting within the law and not be contrary to public policy or morality

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes - but please ensure that there is that Independent celebrants are afforded the same rights as Humanist celebrants and are nominated as individuals to officiate legal marriage

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be an overarching body

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is critical for the development and modernisation of marriage laws in the UK

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In addition - I would suggest that the NOCN Level 3 Diploma in Celebrancy: Naming and Couples - as the highest available celebrant qualification in the UK should be used as a requirement

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However this should not impact on the creative and personalised elements that many couples are now seeking

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be an ongoing rolling programme as some leave and others seek to join

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

prayers, hymns, religious reading, blessings from a variety of faiths and traditions - as requested by the couple

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be about offering the widest possible choice to couples

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

wherever is meaningful to the couple

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants will need clear guidelines they can apply when making their judgements

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

County councils - Registration office. Venue would apply for pre - approval

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Failure to sign is not acceptable

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant should be required

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

fixed time limit should apply

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current laws prevent couples from marrying where they wish to. Many of my wedding ceremonies are held in venues that are not approved marriage premises or they held in non approved areas within approved venues. This relates especially to privately owned homes, land and gardens

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is often very difficult for couples to have a simple marriage registration in a Register Office at a time and day to suit them as slots for this type of marriage registration are so very limited.

Most couples who opt for the creative personal wedding ceremony I offer want legal registration of their marriage thus requiring them to have a separate legal registration

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would be wonderful - introducing choice and options to couples who want a wedding that is both legal, creative and personalised in the venue of their choice. In addition with an officiant who has taken the time to get to know them and write a ceremony with bespoke aspects

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

as a self employed independent celebrant my income is not fixed or predictable - any Officiant registration fee needs to be realistic

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8F-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-03 18:45:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] - independent civil celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NO,I am happy to be named

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married, I am a civil celebrant and perform non legally binding wedding ceremonies for others.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is not legal to perform a ceremony and not disclose that it is not a legal ceremony. I would never do this

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Barriers exist for people seeking non traditional or mixed faith and outdoor weddings.

1) mixed faith weddings - where neither partner can marry in the place of their faith but do still want to honour their beliefs. This is not possible in a register office or Humanist ceremony, but as an independent celebrant I welcome all faiths and will write ceremonies incorporating all aspects they wish honoured.

2) outdoor weddings - currently no-one can marry legally outdoors yet many wish to. My own ceremonies take place in gardens, woods, forests and festivals, under the sky and stars.

3) Pagan, Druidic, Celtic ceremonies etc - faith weddings which are non traditional - currently these are not allowed - no faith is allowed at Register or Humanist ceremonies so there is no provision for these wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have conducted one out of the seven weddings I had been contracted to undertake this year. My couples have had to postpone their ceremonies. I lost several prospective ceremonies as the couples opted instead for a quick register office legal wedding.

My couples lost money and the opportunity for the weddings they wanted.

I have conducted one ceremony over Zoom, but in general this year has been disastrous.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

yes - the use of Zoom or similar would cut waiting times - couples are currently caught in a backlog

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This seems sensible

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not able to answer this question

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again not able to answer this question

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not my sphere of competence

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

as above

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This seems sensible

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If celebrants are allowed to conduct legal ceremonies then the need for registration officers would be to register not conduct the ceremonies.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above -there is no need for a registration officer if celebrants are trained and licenced to officiate. Registration officers could then be office based dealing with the legal paperwork



Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

2) is a very binary view. It is not a question of religious faith or none. This implies faith or Humanism. However, there is a third choice. In the same way that celebrants such as I conduct funerals which have a range of spiritual beliefs, so do weddings. Pagans, Wiccans, Spiritual beliefs, handfasting, jumping the room, mixed faith, ceremonies are all valid, but not covered by the limiting choices you are offering. People often want a blend of religious and non religious content. For example a broadly humanist ceremony with some pagan elements (handfasting and jumping the broom) and some Christian elements (bible reading or the Lords prayer). This is not possible under a church/faith wedding or Humanist, as they do not allow any faith. Nor do register ceremonies. Only Independent Civil Celebrants allow ALL faiths and beliefs to be recognised and celebrated.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is very limiting. Humanism is NOT the only alternative to faith! Spiritual beliefs, ancient pagan elements, even Jedai and other new belief systems are not currently able to marry or have elements in their legal ceremonies which reflect their beliefs or cultures. I speak as one who is a member of Humanist UK, but I honour all beliefs and allow them in my non legal ceremonies, There is a huge appetite in the populace for ceremonies which are legal but allow spiritual beliefs - there is currently no avenue for this and to limit it again is short sighted and discriminatory.

Please share your views below:

If I understand this question correctly, you are asking for organisations which are non religious belief organisations but which could conduct weddings. there are several independent civil celebrant training colleges which train celebrants to a high level. the FOIC - Fellowship of Independent Celebrants offers NOCN certificate and Diploma recognised courses. The IPC (Institute of Professional Celebrants) UK society of Celebrants and Civil ceremonies are all highly thought of. All of the above train celebrants to conduct ceremonies for all faiths, including humanist, spiritual, etc

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1) - not suitable for non religious bodies - however, a certain standard of training (diploma) should be a requirement at the very least for a Celebrant and their regulating body should be held accountable for the standard of their wedding ceremonies. These should be written to a high standard, though most definitely NOT to a formula similar to the register service currently available, as this would take away the point.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure I understand. Do you mean organisations which promote hatred or illegal practices - then yes. However, religious and spiritual freedom should be allowed - beliefs are personal and unique

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Civil celebrants are self employed. Their training body is not legally involved in their professional choices. Therefore this is not really relevant. Once trained, the civil celebrant is an independent, often sole trader. However, a regulating body is a good idea

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure that this question is clear,

If you mean that civil celebrants should not be able to make a business out of officiating at weddings then this is patently absurd as it is their income.

if you seek to limit their ability to officiate weddings to only one kind of expression of their belief then this is also failing to understand the nature of civil celebrancy.

For example, I conducted a non faith based, non spiritual wedding this year which still had elements of pagan and Celtic faith (hand fasting). next year I will conduct a pagan ceremony, and another which has Christian elements. As a funeral celebrant i regularly conduct funerals with prayers, or other elements, as well as humanist, non faith and even Pagan or Druidic elements.

Yet I myself do not have these faiths. My beliefs are irrelevant - I am giving my families and couples the wedding or ceremony of their dreams and wishes.

When I was a teacher my own faith was irrelevant when teaching in multi cultural classrooms - to be otherwise would be discriminatory. I believe the same is true of wedding ceremonies. This is not about profit, it is about honouring the beliefs of the people who trust me to conduct the service for them.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To a certain extent. I am working at the lower end of the wedding market, at about £500 per ceremony. However others charge £4,000 for a wedding. Our clients are very different, and my own tastes are to simple and fair pricing, but it is up to the couples to decide what price range they wish for. Unlike other services for weddings, there is no 'mark up' when conducting a wedding. It covers the time taken writing and re writing, the time spent with the couples, travel expenses and sometimes the costs of hotels , flights etc if working abroad. It also covers conducting the ceremony itself. It is up to the couples to find a celebrant in their price range. I know that registrars going to hotels to conduct services get paid time and a half at weekends and are paid by the hour. yet the council charges up to £650 for this service - of which the celebrant registrar gets about £30 - 40. Often they conduct up to 6 weddings a day on popular weekends. This is why so many leave to become celebrants, and also because they want to be able to write ceremonies with freedom to include all the elements the couples want.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? Why should a celebrant not be free to be a lay minister in their own time and also a civil celebrant? Why discriminate?

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be very helpful. However it should not seek to limit the range or content of a service.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated before, training bodies do not have any power over celebrants once trained. I suggest a nominated governing body to oversee weddings, and suggest that the registration authority should perform this duty.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Outdoor, woodland, garden. beach - these are all places couples want to be able to wed - under the sky, not in a structure. The officiant should be the licence, not the place.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

YES!!!!!!"

Please share your views below:

ALL ELEMENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED - THIS IS THEIR WEDDING NOT ANYONE ELSE'S.

handfasting

sand ceremonies

prayer

religious readings

unity candles

jumping the broom

hymns or similar religious songs

quartering the elements (Pagan) earth, wind, fire and water, north, south, east west

religious outfits/iconry

sacred circles and smudging (Pagan/Celtic/Druidic)

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

YES YES YES

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Yes to all of the above. Other countries have allowed this for years and it is very popular. Currently weddings in venues are ridiculously expensive and prohibitive - up to £20,000 for an average wedding cost, a lot of which goes on the venue. This is discriminating against the poorer section. Some belief systems, especially pagan, are linked to the natural environment and require outdoor venues, often wooded.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why limit this? Who does it hurt?

I was raised atheist but attended Christian schools. I was a humanist yet taught in CofE schools. I taught Muslims, Hindus, Jewish, Christian etc children. I visited churches and synagogues, Temples and Mosques.

As a funeral celebrant I conduct funerals in many different places including church burial grounds, crematoria and woodland burials. If a vicar wants to conduct a funeral in a civil place, who cares?

Same with weddings - why cause more rules to break - just free the whole thing up and let couples CHOOSE

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

SAFE - yes

Dignified? Why? Weddings should be fun. If that is what the couple wants. Serious, spooky, dignified or whatever they wish. Heartfelt - yes. Genuine - yes.

Romantic - if they want. but dignified - why?

A handfasting can be fun, romantic, loving, irreverent and dignified in turns. No-one is saying that weddings shouldn't be a true commitment. A Legal and moral linking of two souls, an agreement to honour, love and care for each other. However, the wedding itself can be anything the couple want, as long as

the commitment they make is real.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

SAFE - yes

Dignified - no - that is the couple and the celebrant's choice.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why stop at only two languages? Many civil ceremonies are bilingual (BSL should be an option)

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely we are over the whole same sex/intrasex/Trans question now? If two people love each other and find someone of their faith who is willing to marry them despite their faith's blinkered view of such things then good luck to them.

Two people marry, not two genders.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No to 1 for the reasons above

YES to 2 - this has to be a priority to avoid coercion and marrying for gain or legal status/people trafficking etc

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This takes away the rights of a couple NOT to marry but to consider their assets as joint, and their parenting rights etc to be as if married. It is a couple's choice if they marry or not, and the rights of a long term couple should be preserved as if married - it won't stop people wanting to get married, it will just protect the vulnerable and the children of such a relationship.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Yes - because currently they cannot marry in their desired place or style, due to the same limitations as mentioned above. If they are able to be married by an independent civil celebrant they will be able to have their wedding where they want and when they want without any legal limitations currently in place.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why add to the red tape? As long as they give notice and follow legal advice, this should not be limited to waiting for a registration officer to become free. This can and has delayed weddings to the point where the person had passed before legally being able to wed the person they loved.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes - ferries, sailing ships and barges - obviously subject to size and safety

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why only a member of the crew? Surely a celebrant should be able to join the couple - why should it only be limited to crew members? this seems to be a purely financial decision to benefit the owners of the vessels, not the couples themselves and would lead to the same abuses currently seen on land at venues who charge the earth. It discriminates against poorer couples.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be at the discretion of the officiant.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither - should be completely discretionary - currently Make a wish and dream wedding charities do this and do not charge. It is up to the conscience of the officiant and the means of the couple to pay.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Oh yes? As previously stated, celebrant registrars get a fraction of what the council charges. I can see why cash strapped councils do this, but paying the celebrant registrars a decent wage for their time should be mandatory.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be on a case by case situation

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this becomes a licence to print money, with the officiant charged and sent through hoops it will be a disaster. A simple yet fair and in depth process, with clear and transparent pricing is the only way.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1 - yes it does - there are many couples for whom the two tier system is offputting, leading to them having a ceremony which is not to their taste and does not allow for their faiths. Also many couples can't afford it and save for years, and others just don't bother as it is such a faff  
2) It is a step in the right direction but any decision must distinguish between Non faith (humanist) and Civil celebrants, who are in the majority and are the ones conducting the multi-faith, spiritual and open ceremonies which couples want.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) if a couple wants a simple ceremony it is almost impossible to get - one afternoon a week and booked weeks in advance  
2) yes most definitely - this is a racket which prohibits weddings for anyone under a certain pay grade or encourages debt and borrowing  
3 - not my area  
4) it is ridiculous to have place where no weddings can take place legally and yet ceremonies take place their all the time with non legal weddings.



5) Yes, this adds to the price and prohibits many couples from even trying

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

All of these proposals would allow couples to conduct weddings for a reasonable price and would enable them to do so much more easily.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have already given my opinion on council charges for licenced venues

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

- freedom
- not having to save up for years or go into debt
- simplification of the process which is currently very confusing
- less waiting
- true religious and spiritual freedom unlike current restrictions which discriminate against any belief that is not Christian or atheist (C of E and Registrar weddings are the only ones licenced and this is binary and discriminatory against other faiths)

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This does bring in revenue for local authorities, from licencing venues to renting out registrars for a huge profit compared with what they are paid

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

They can create new jobs for overseeing and licencing, they can reduce the need for registrars at venues thus allowing them to not have to pay overtime, but still retaining them for training and licencing new officiants.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It limits their ability to offer wedding packages

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

They could have a whole new industry of river weddings, weddings on ferries, special chartered wedding boat trips etc - lots of potential revenue

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Training and accreditation would cost independent officiants money, which would pass on to couples initially. The LA and government would have initial costs to facilitate training and all of the necessary paperwork, computer systems etc.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8Q-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-03 19:08:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Everything cancelled or postponed until 2021 or 2022. Complete loss of income.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It shouldn't matter. If the couple have the right to marry in England then it should be the whole country and not different counties. We are so computerised these days that this shouldn't impact on required checks.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Great idea

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Without knowing what checks are made on individuals within the current 28 days it's difficult to see why it takes so long. How many sham marriages have actually been prevented after a 7 day period?

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Not sure on this one.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. If this works now, why change it and make it more complicated for the individuals concerned

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How can an officiant be booked without confirmation of a date or time being set in advance. Current practice for a Celebrant is to be booked once a date and venue has been selected.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure how this works as not involved with religious services. Can't comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Online should be possible too if Civil ceremonies change to this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Good idea

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is what we have been looking for.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants should be authorised too

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no governing body for Independent Celebrants. There are training organisations and these offer this service to make money out of training personnel, not necessarily to govern how they perform later.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This completely excludes Independent Celebrants who offer a ceremony based on a hugely diverse belief system.

Please share your views below:

This will be a very popular question for Humanist U.K. and Council Registrar personnel who do not wish for Independent Celebrants to be able to officiate. sadly they was exclusivity and not Inclusivity.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the GRO are to record this info, but are they going to be responsible for accepting nominated officiants too?

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely!

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You can't nominate someone who isn't.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are running a business. We charge based on what we offer and thus enables couples to make a choice based on services as well as price.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why wouldn't we.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the legal requirements are necessary and should be conducted identically in each ceremony, but as an Independent celebrant we create bespoke services for our couples and this is why we are paid to do what we do.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Some couples I have been involved with are of mixed faith eg Jewish/Athiest. A Hebrew prayer over wine is an example where a Jewish faith mini-ceremony element has been included in a predominantly secular ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be no limit at any venue

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure where would be considered un-dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance but not Authorisation

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Mistakes happen

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this is how it currently is required. But a shorter period of time may be necessary and a special license issued

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with part 1 but not 2-4

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is no different than notifying GRO of the venue booked

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Depends on the couples. As this hasn't been an option before I cannot comment

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A time limit should be set, but this could be a 3 month time limit rather than 10 days

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If this is within their paid working hours there is no additional requirement to be paid more for time

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

All of my couples have completed a Registration ceremony plus a bespoke celebrant ceremony. For some couples this has caused them to pay two set fees. I think there would be an increase in legally married couples if they can have the ceremony they want.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There are significant costs involved and these vary across the country and by differing celebrant fees but this is business. The fact that some Register offices do not advertise the £46 basic ceremony and have been known to make it difficult for couples to book these is criminal. The fact that couples need to arrange for a separate legal ceremony, even at £46 is a shame and could be addressed under this change in the Law.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This change shouldn't be based on "savings" made by the couples rather than an increase in their choices available for them.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I'm one celebrant and conduct over 30 ceremonies per year. There has been a significant increase not only in ceremonies but in the number of celebrants available and this must be considered to be a factor that couples want the ability to choose who they have officiate and what words they say during their ceremony. No longer prescriptive and same for all ( tick box options)

There is a huge business opportunity for small, family owned venues to host ceremonies as well as more well known venues in reading choice of rooms and grounds.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8D-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-03 22:36:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

FOIC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

married in 1980 .

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Own son has had his wedding cancelled four times. I have not been able to conduct any weddings this year all cancelled and deferred to 2021/22

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should have a choice on how they marry and by whom. Legality is important to prevent illegal marriages however celebrants with extensive knowledge of the legal process could take on this role. Celebrants are able to carry out no legal ceremonies offering couples choice and a ceremony that is personal and reflects the beliefs of the couple and not the ceremony is unique and not as a register lead wedding that is often very formal and cold and uniformed in delivery.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the progress in technology using an on line process is important to enable councils to move into the 21st Century . This would also offer a more efficient service and allow council staff to gain additional IT skills. It could also be a saving to the councils.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing seven days would allow the office to be able to investigate and identify any issues. However in cases where illness necessitates a quicker response 3 days should be an option.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews could take place , however it is important that proof of identity is available at the time to confirm the couple being interviewed are the correct people.

The use of zoom or teams is an option.

If any doubts an face to face interview should be conducted. this may apply to the following groups.

previously married couples needing to prove divorce status.

Non British nationals.

people who do not have British status

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice is important again to prevent illegal regulations.

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

notice should be made.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Having a substitute officiant involved will help prevent any delays associated with sickness etc.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Taking away this process will allow couples greater choice. This procedure is out of date with the times and taking it away will begin to offer choice .

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be more flexibility and the couple should be given the right to be able to be married in any parish after it has been established that they have met the criteria.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This process has lead to less people getting married in church and as church congregations have reduced in size having such tight restrictions does not encourage young people to attend church willingly without having to attend for such a long period in order to hear bands. Bands should be able to be read in non religious setting and perhaps the time has come to question if bands are necessary.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The clergy if marrying a couple does need to check the legality of the marriage like a registrar. Meeting the couple does help get to know the couple and helps put them at ease in readiness for the ceremony. Just like a celebrant meets the couple before hand. However the clergy often meets more than once to check out that the couple know what they are marrying for. This does question if the questioning why a couple want to marry is the responsibility of the clergy and what power do they have.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

They should attend as a couple not independently.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All denominations should have the power to marry example Baptist, Methodist, etc celebrants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

all colleagues agree.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremonies created to reflect the views , beliefs and values of the couple.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious and non religious should be offered what ever the couple want. personal to them

Please share your views below:

Prayers,  
religious readings  
blessings

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However if you change the regulations about civil wedding ceremonies this answer will alter.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

offers choice

Please share your views below:

as long as risk assessed the couple should have choice.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

need some guidance for legal reasons



Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

for their own safety as well as others duty of care

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Upto the owners however insurance of the individual does need to be checked.

Please share your views below:

The owner should be responsible and clear guidelines and insured the celebrant in my case would need to check their insurance in the event of an accident.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There does need to be some regulation

No

Please expand on your answer:

need to reduce the rigidity of the process.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

again rigid.

No

Please expand on your answer:

still need to a ceremony otherwise no one would get married .

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However proof required

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

This does need to be addressed especially with people terminal. They should be able to be legally married without any delay.

No sure about prisons.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Dont have time however if on line this would help.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

dont need a registrar celebrants could do this.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

where ever the couple wish

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

celebrants could do this

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

choice if they wish

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

acceptable for travel

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No fees should be required.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if they wish however should not be law .

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

standard cost across all councils

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If hosting weddings and have registrars attend then charge. however locations should be able to carry out weddings in areas that do not have to be licensed

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If couple wish a registrar to attend.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is understanding that employed council staff will need to be paid.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

other methods example virtual may replace this

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Allowing greater flexibility by allowing celebrants to conduct marriages including the legal process will enable couples to have a marriage the way they want and a marriage that reflects the values and beliefs of the couple. The current law puts a lot of pressure on couples who may want to marry in church however the hoops they have to jump. the strict church regulations result in the church instead of encouraging people to go to church the strict regulations discourage them. losing future church goers. If banns and less legality surrounded the getting married in church then more people would choice to marry in churches.

However celebrants can and should be allowed to legally marry couples in churches or any venue chosen by the couple. Regulations should be in place to protect the couple associated with safety.

a marriage ceremony should be a ceremony that reflects the values and beliefs of the couple in a place of their choice without any constraints apart from safety.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The cost of a register office wedding should only be for the registrar and payment should only be for one. the witness of the ceremony needs to have been done before the day with papers all checked. having 2 people is an added cost and not necessary.
2. The rule associated with approved premises needs to be got rid off.
3. The cost of marrying in registered places of worship. should be allowed however minimal costs
4. Private facilities should be able to ask for a minimal charge which should be part of the wedding celebration.
5. Limited costs for the couple to pay for the presence of a civil celebrant.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More choice

Less legality may encourage couples to marry earlier than stay engaged longer  
more people marrying in church with no need to here banns  
being able to marry when and where a couple want.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. couples would have greater choice.
2. would not need registry offices as couples could be married by celebrants in a venue of their choice.
3. allowing venues to allow religious and non religious officiates would allow couples greater choice.
4. The business opportunities include.

More marriages

increased costs for wedding venues

smaller venues could be used for weddings and marriages

The wedding industry would benefit considerably with opportunities for their services to be used in places that they would not have imagined.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The local Authorities would be able to use the resources they presently use for focusing on providing other services. the demand on the amount of money LA have is being stretched. The role of the register will still be needed for the registering of death, births. etc. However not doing marriage ceremonies would free up time to enable them to be used for checking the legality surrounding the couples background and the need to ensure that the couple do not have any illegal reasons for not being married.

WE are in the 21st century we need to move in practice and give people choice taking away the legal stiff archaic practices their is a need to change. Many registrars have become celebrants and being able to carry out the legal marriage and the wedding is more fulfilling role which offers an individual the opportunity to create wedding ceremonies that reflect the values and beliefs of the couple and not using the words that they have to use as dictated by the LA.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More flexibility couples

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

flexibility offering choice

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

choice and more flexibility

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

choice

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. if people do not use LA loss of income
- 2..Greater profits and they can offer facilities not licenced and this cost
3. Small costs however if they lessen the strict criteria more money into the church and may increase congregations.
4. Celebrants are increasing in numbers and can offer religious and non religious ceremonies and should be recognised as able to understand the law and create a legal marriage as well as a unique and personal ceremony.
5. Couples will be able to choice when and where they are married. they will be able to create with a celebrant a unique and personal ceremony that reflects their values beliefs and one they will treasure . the cost of this will be more transparent

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8Y-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-04 17:06:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Pastor [REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Methodist Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Am legally married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

security for us both

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I had to conduct a wedding during pandemic , the couple were not believers but wished to use the chapel to make it legal, then after a very short service 10 mins they went home and had another ceremony with a celebrant who could not do a legally binding wedding. I was happy to help but felt that the marriage of their choice was not by me in chapel but in their home by a celebrant. Consequently I feel that other celebrants should be allowed to do a legal wedding and one that the couple really want as it is the one day they will remember always.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some people originally belong to an area like Pant here by me, so they wish to marry in their hometown but now live and work away, I have come across this a lot.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If its online its much more visible and accessible

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

& days is reasonable I think

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Provided they are witnessed yes

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should still be possible as its necessary

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its open to viewing and all above board so thats a good thing

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What schedule is this exactly?

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Is this in case the celebrant of their choice becomes ill?

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

You need a plan B always on such an important day

Please share your views below:

Well yes if its necessary as no one knows what may happen

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure on this I must say

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I would think in that particular church but to include the surrounding local area

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Both are a good idea as you still cant be too careful

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No its a bit degrading and outdated now, come to the Methodists instead

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Just open it all up a bit, look at the poor couple who came to me to get married then went back home to have the alternative ceremony they really wanted

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its how we usually do it , legal declarations etc

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think they should be allowed to officiate for the couple who choose them ANYWHERE

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its enough

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No it needs to be opened up now as its putting people off

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the second one as celebrants must be owned and recommended by their training body

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No one must dictate how others must live their lives

Please share your views below:

One Spirit ministers must now be allowed as they are already in Ireland and Scotland

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes because they will know if the celebrant is worthy of recommendation

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes if morally unsound they need stopping

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes again because the individuals will be known to them

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely hold them all on a good to go list

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes its about time now to let them

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You have still to be known to be of good character trustworthy and true

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If you want to do weddings you have to be worthy and fit

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You can have a fee but youre not there to rip them off

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As i said a standard fee is acceptable but dont get greedy

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No I think you could do both religious and non religious as required as I know I have been asked to

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely , standards must be upheld

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its always good to follow guidance

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they dont comply they deserve to go

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they are letting the side down they shouldnt be doing it

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You have to realise that you are conducting a legal ceremony and accept the resposibilty that goes with it

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Well maybe there should be ten yearly checks to see if they are still fit for purpose

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They must tow the line if they want to keep doing weddings its a serious thing

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You know where they both stand with their own wishes if they say them in public

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its their day and they should have their choice

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No limitations , make way for all peoples

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes of course its about personal choice

Please share your views below:

Hymns and readings, a thought for the day etc

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Well this is the other way round to what recently happened to me, I think that once they have had a legally binding ceremony, thats the one that counts and will be registered.

There wouldnt be any harm in an extra one, as it wouldnt be the one that counted any way, the first one would be the one registered.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No , open doors continues to be good practice as it invites the open to all practice

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes provided it wasnt a ridiculous place like a toilet

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All ok but I personally wouldnt want to marry anyone in the air

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes its reasonable for the family to have a degree of privacy and you do get a lot of families who have fallen out

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

At our local chapels we have always allowed other ministers or official celebrants to come and do them as long as they show respect and co operation. Sometimes we get a good donation

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes because they might be a good judge of whether the place is acceptable or not

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Decency is the main thing and to take it seriously , the commitment you are making

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Im afraid you have to guide people now a bit as a lot need to be told what s dignified and safe, some are too young to be sensible

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if the place could be looked at you could then decide if its suitable

Please share your views below:

The council and it should be done by filling in a form

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is going to be a historic document in years to come and so as much detail as this would be great for those who will see it in years to come

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In English and Welsh I think or else only one or the other would understand it

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To avoid sham marriages you need to be doing this yes

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes all these things could happen and have to be thought about now

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the marriage register must always be signed and witnessed

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they cant go along with the lawful requirements then they are not serious in their intent to marry and must be stopped at it

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Cant say as I understand this scenario so am not commenting.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You cant just presume someones married when they co habited a long time

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it the same you dont know if lying goes on you see

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Big offence worthy of being struck off

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Yes especially in terminal illness I think.

### Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Just need proof that they are terminally ill and thats enough

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lot more sensible, there are not enough ministers to do weddings thats why I as Pastor have a dispensation and am an authorised person

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems a long time if someones terminally ill but it gives them a bit of scope

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

May as well be the same length of time

### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes provided it could be carried out and achieved with documentary evidence

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Well there could arise a situation that needs this so yes

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Really I think both are emergencies

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some people have this sort of requirement to marry at sea

### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As I said you never know what means what and to whom...

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Same thoughts really

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its all got to be registered just the same wherever it is

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be any official celebrant who is worthy and qualified, but this could of course be a Maritime officer

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One rule for all

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be anyone as long as they are an officially recognised celebrant and can legally perform a wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes there is demand for religious weddings I know

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As soon as reasonably possible

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only fair

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Compassion needed in these cases

Consultation Question 77:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes keep that on

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Just would come under necessary expenses

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You need to actually see venues are fit to have weddings going on

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only fair

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

same

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

cost should be same

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Some fee but with allowances

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

only fair

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes I know that current law discourages those wanting to marry, the improvements would certainly lead to more wishing to marry I guarantee this fact

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Recently I was asked to do a wedding as short as possible which I did. The couple were not believers and had a second ceremony afterwards at home. However it was the church ceremony that was registered and legal. If the second celebrant had been legally able to marry them they would not have used me at all. They didn't want me really, or the chapel, but had to have it in order to be legal. They DID want a non religious spiritual service at home, so they had to have two services and it was expensive. Open up the way to alternative celebrants, may I recommend ONE SPIRIT MINISTERS who are already legal in Ireland and Scotland. It would be so sensible and encouraging to couples and more accepting

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

To make marriage more affordable, comfortable and available please do bring in your proposed changes which would open up a lot of hope to those who feel on the outside

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think the benefits would be immense to applying marriage laws with this greater scope and understanding of modern circumstances, I personally know it would work in an enormously better way

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

As business opportunity it would be marvellous, I do think however that to look at the place first would be advisable always and for staff to have special wedding training.

Non religious celebrants are fine but must be proven to be people of great integrity and take their responsibility extremely seriously as they are carrying out a lawful procedure

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have always found local authorities fantastic and helpful and dutiful and kind

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The local authority would have more choices to suggest to those wishing to marry which is a strength indeed

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Well they could suddenly have the prospect opened up to them that they can marry HERE and don't need to go to Ireland, please please allow it as it is now time to change the outmoded laws and come into the modern age which has different needs

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People on ships want to marry and why not

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Let them be treated the same as anyone else

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

It's not that expensive to get married really but I do think our churches put people off with being old fashioned, the new laws will open up options and choice and cannot fail to be an improvement

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8S-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-05 14:16:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This dates back to a time when people were not socially mobile and stayed within their communities for generations.  
The law now serves no purpose.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Self serve is the future direction for most services and the age profile of those getting married means they are likely to work.  
To take time from work to undergo these processes can be difficult and so to allow people to do this from the comfort of their home, 24/7 seems only appropriate  
It also allows for the future of virus control to minimise the face to face interaction required in offices.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

For any service and couple to plan a ceremony within 7 days is very difficult.  
The service will need to allocate resource and plan the ceremony etc.  
The whole thing could be farcical if it isn't given due attention and so to maintain dignity of what is being done (and also avoid rash decisions by couples) I believe it should be a minimum of 14 days.  
I do appreciate that for some people the 28 day period can be difficult but for the vast majority 28 days is more than enough. A compromise to 14 days would hopefully help.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is a very difficult situation. This relies on officers then making that judgement and having to justify that decision to clients. How do you justify that decision without causing great offence to people.  
I think this review should take out as much as possible any personal judgements. If both parties meet certain criteria and documents can be viewed on screen and verified somehow then a face to face interview seems unnecessary. I believe this would account for most instances.  
Where there is a clear concern regarding sham, freedom and willingness to marry etc. then a face to face follow up should be mandatory. Each of these can be prescribed clearly with criteria rather than left to officers to make this call.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

This would open up a more equitable system to Scotland.  
People from England/Wales can fairly easily marry in Scotland however the other way around is not possible without residency and other complications (paperwork validity 12 months v 3 months etc) This could even be marketed out and make it simpler for people who class somewhere in EorW as home with family but live/work in Scotland to marry where they choose.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. The local publication is laborious and pointless.  
Doing this on a national database online makes far more sense as people are more socially mobile.  
It also makes it harder for anyone to have a marriage in secret where one party is vulnerable. Making it more likely family members would know and could raise a caveat.  
The information that is put online I feel however should be more limited than the current information to protect people's privacy.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree this should be the initial validity but there should be the option to extend this a further 12 months to account for future pandemic situations, beast from the east or personal crisis for the couple such as health concerns.

Could there be a way that criteria is set for the validity dependant on the case?

Scottish paperwork is only valid 3 months so if one party giving notice in Scotland the corresponding paperwork here could be valid the same

Paperwork to marry overseas perhaps only valid 12 months.

Paperwork where one or both parties are foreign nationals perhaps 6 months

Others could have a 2 -3 year validity provided no change in circumstances?

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be almost impossible for Registration to state so far in advance which officer would officiate at the ceremony

The paperwork should simply state which body would officiate (anglican, nominated other, celebrant, Registrar etc) and I'm sure the same could apply for any of these bodies due to sickness, moving roles or holiday leave. This would be unnecessary at this point to the process.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be irrelevant entirely.

It should be the officiating body who is named

I appreciate the venue won't be licensed but the individuals however the body should ensure only licensed or authorised officiants can attend.

Please share your views below:

Absolutely any circumstance as it should be the body who is officiating that matters, the individual that body puts forward should not be relevant until nearer the time with the couple.

The only exception would be independant celebrants who would need named and others could not then act in their place as they are as stated independant.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If we are removing residency let's open it up to be as flexible as possible for people

If someone is marrying in EorW but lives in Scotland surely it is sensible for banns to be read out wherever possible to ensure any objections can be raised.

If we move to civil preliminaries for all ceremonies it would remove the need entirely for banns to be read anywhere.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No

All preliminaries should be civil so it is standard and the state is fully protected with fair and equitable treatment for all couples.

All civil preliminaries should be online nationally for the reasons already given.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Banns should no longer be in place.

All preliminaries should be civil.

All officiants (representative of their body) should have to speak to or meet a couple to agree the ceremony date, time and appropriateness of their choice

Any officiant should have the right to ask for further details or meet the couple prior to agreeing to marry then. In religious buildings this is important so they can be satisfied a couple are not marrying simply because the church is pretty in a beautiful location.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes absolutely otherwise we would be going back in time where one party owns and speaks for the other.

Every individual should be accountable for themselves and have the right to give their own information and raise concerns regarding coercion/forced marriage

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Strongly believe it needs to be regulated, consistent and equitable for everyone. This provides the best platform to protect the interests of the state and the individuals.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If we are opening this up to customer choice and making the playing field entirely level then we are to remove such boundaries unless they can be fully justified.

Registration Officers should be able to deliver any kind of blended ceremony requested by the couple if the couple choose a registration officer to deliver this.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In essence yes however there are some exceptions to this.

If the ceremony is to be in a place which is deemed safe and has public liability insurance and other staff on duty taking responsibility then this is acceptable

If we are opening up staff to climbing mountains, going on boats, in to peoples homes and gardens they have a right to be protected.

In such instances public liability insurance should be in place and 2 officers should attend and be reflected in the cost of service delivery

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be ongoing training for clergy to retain such status.

The standards of ceremony and paperwork varies greatly between religious buildings and officiants.

In some instances it is questionable if due process has been followed and as such to raise those standards there should be annual online training in place to maintain their license.

this should apply to all officiants

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should indeed nominate but there should be mandatory training online to be completed annually to become an officiant of any kind and this should be reviewed annually with online training to maintain official status

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is simply a civil ceremony

There are many belief and value systems out there which are not officiants.

If we open this up we could have dozens or hundreds of belief groups entitled to this status.

A civil ceremony should be able to reflect the beliefs and values of any couple through flexibility within the wording and promises made and personalised ceremonies. There would be nothing moving forward to prohibit a civil ceremony to include beliefs or values from any system or organisation provided it was ethical and legal.

Please share your views below:

The system should simply be

Anglican  
Nominated Other  
Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The system should simply be

Anglican  
Nominated Other  
Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

A civil ceremony should be able to reflect the beliefs and values of any couple through flexibility within the wording and promises made and personalised ceremonies. There would be nothing moving forward to prohibit a civil ceremony to include beliefs or values from any system or organisation provided it was ethical and legal.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The system should simply be

Anglican  
Nominated Other  
Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

A civil ceremony should be able to reflect the beliefs and values of any couple through flexibility within the wording and promises made and personalised ceremonies. There would be nothing moving forward to prohibit a civil ceremony to include beliefs or values from any system or organisation provided it was ethical and legal.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The system should simply be

Anglican  
Nominated Other  
Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

A civil ceremony should be able to reflect the beliefs and values of any couple through flexibility within the wording and promises made and personalised ceremonies. There would be nothing moving forward to prohibit a civil ceremony to include beliefs or values from any system or organisation provided it was ethical and legal.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The system should simply be

Anglican  
Nominated Other  
Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

Rather than GRO maintaining this list it should be on a more local level in conjunction with local authorities who could oversee the training and ensure law upheld. The list would then be held for the County at GRO.

A civil ceremony should be able to reflect the beliefs and values of any couple through flexibility within the wording and promises made and personalised ceremonies. There would be nothing moving forward to prohibit a civil ceremony to include beliefs or values from any system or organisation provided it was ethical and legal.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should indeed nominate but there should be mandatory training online to be completed annually to become an officiant of any kind and this should be reviewed annually with online training to maintain official status

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't however agree that this should be the case

I believe there should be

Anglican  
Nominated Other



Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

Rather than GRO maintaining this list it should be on a more local level in conjunction with local authorities who could oversee the training and ensure law upheld. The list would then be held for the County at GRO.

A civil ceremony should be able to reflect the beliefs and values of any couple through flexibility within the wording and promises made and personalised ceremonies. There would be nothing moving forward to prohibit a civil ceremony to include beliefs or values from any system or organisation provided it was ethical and legal.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The level playing field is critical which is why

I believe there should be

Anglican

Nominated Other

Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

Rather than GRO maintaining this list it should be on a more local level in conjunction with local authorities who could oversee the training and ensure law upheld. The list would then be held for the County at GRO.

A civil ceremony should be able to reflect the beliefs and values of any couple through flexibility within the wording and promises made and personalised ceremonies. There would be nothing moving forward to prohibit a civil ceremony to include beliefs or values from any system or organisation provided it was ethical and legal.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within the same parameters as anglican, nominated other and registration.

level playing field is surely what we are aiming for with this process

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Just because someone has a belief system does not mean they are unable to deliver an entirely secular ceremony.

The skills of the role are what is necessary. If the individual feels within themselves able to do so then there is no reason why not, but with strict penalties if they breach this (such as risk losing their official status)

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but what does this mean. Peoples understanding of this can be different.

Is singing, dancing, barefoot and lots of joy undignified. It is to some people however shows warmth love and joy to others.

I think the criteria should be clearer such as nothing sexist, racist, ageist, sexually explicit etc. that would be offensive to others could be clearly identified and outside this we need to allow people to express themselves as they wish to do so without judgement.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without questions.

As above this should be the terms of training that requires repetition on an annual basis to remain licensed as an officiant

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but this should only be anglican, nominated religious body or local authority as I believe there should be

Anglican  
Nominated Other  
Civil

What we need is an expansion of what civil is and encourage local authorities to work with celebrants to deliver ceremonies in a new and exciting way but within the governance that will protect the state and the individual.

Rather than GRO maintaining this list it should be on a more local level in conjunction with local authorities who could oversee the training and ensure law upheld. The list would then be held for the County at GRO.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without questions.

As above this should be the terms of training that requires repetition on an annual basis to remain licensed as an officiant.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

12 month license with online training undertaken annually to maintain this.

There could be a range on modules to be completed such as managing data, preliminaries to marriage, the ceremony, content, registration of schedule, what happens next, fees, processes, health and safety, IT security.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should also include all officiants though if it is a level playing field such as anglican ministers, priests, registration officers etc.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consent is critical and should be part of the ceremony early on.

How do we manage a situation if someone has just had the ceremony and it has been witnessed but then the paperwork can't be signed.

It seems counterintuitive to what we need to do to protect the interests of the state and individual if we do not clearly make consent a major factor in the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With some exceptions to be made clear around sexism, racism, violence, anything sexually explicit etc etc.

People must have the freedom within the bounds of common decency and legislation to express themselves without judgement as far as possible on their wedding day more than any other. People display love and make promises in different ways.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Whatever the couple chooses

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would we remove the rights of the individuals to do so.

Surely we should be opening this up to more choice rather than closing it down.

A couple may wish to have a large ceremony somewhere with family and friends but have a small blessing in their home town with grandparents who couldn't travel for instance.

I can see no reason to cease this practice provided it is clear that this is a blessing with the marriage having already taken place.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lives are more complex now and people are more likely to have people in their past who they do not want present.

Currently it is not possible to prevent this unless the person is disruptive. It should be the right of the couple to choose who is present at such an intimate and important point in their lives.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes within reason.

The body or officiant should have the right to refuse.

If someone wants to get married on Helvellyn who will pay the insurance for officers to go on a treacherous ridge just so someone can say they've done it. Is it necessary to take such risks and push boundaries?

There must be conditions around cost of this provision, insurance that would need to be in place and the need for 2 officers to be present for safety reasons when not in a public recognised venue with other staff on duty.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

These are all fine provided the body or officiant has the right to refuse the request

The fees can be set to allow 2 people to attend for safety and security

That fees can be set to allow for a reekie to establish suitability

That public liability insurance can be provided by the couple to cover this

There is a great risk in going to peoples own home in particular and officers open themselves up to all sorts of personal risk and also allegations. Furthermore we have to consider the different standards of home we may visit and the appropriateness of doing so.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If we remove the need for open doors otherwise if the right to object remains with open doors then they should have to be publicly accessible, at least for the time of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All ceremonies should be able to be performed anywhere, but each body should have the right to refuse this.

For instance for clergy to perform civil ceremonies in a church would seem inappropriate.

It would however be fair for clergy to perform a civil ceremony or a religious ceremony outside the church if they felt comfortable doing so.

Other than in the church which would I imagine remain a place of religion and worship then civil and religious weddings should be possible wherever.

We must remember a church is the body of the people who gather to worship. They can however worship in other places in addition to the church and so the ceremony should also be allowed to reflect this

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the body they are associated with rather than the officiant themselves

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is open to too much interpretation and risk.

This should be decided by a set of rules/guidelines as agreed by their body and then applied by the individual.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local Authorities and therefore ultimately GRO

It should be similar to the current license system for venues but on a cost recovery basis.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Is it possible that the preliminary paperwork does not include a venue - the legal right and consent to marry should be regardless of where. This would also enable clients to change their mind over where to marry without having to do new paperwork again which is inconvenient costly and takes time.

Especially helpful for people who face a challenge such as job loss or illness etc. and can't go with their original plans.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

On the condition they understand it would be deemed to be in a foreign language if in Welsh and would require a translation the same as any other any time they wish to use it

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure - would need a lot more consideration and proposal as to how this could be possible/risks in doing so

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I still believe witnesses should be present

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are many reasons why people marry and marriage doesn't always necessitate living together. Working in different areas and living separately/between each others residences is modern life. We can't judge how others decide to live.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is exceptionally outdated thinking. for a start people should stop judging and assuming anything.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include the couple and any witnesses or guests.

this would remove where the couple and celebrant purport that it is the wedding everyone is observing when in fact it is a celebration.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Extremely onerous and outdated.

If a ceremony was allowed anywhere we would only be looking at a waive in timescale in order for end of life ceremonies. This would make it simpler, and if the timescale was reduced from 28 to say 14 days it would be more likely that many people could marry without an "emergency" wedding.

Housebound would be covered by getting married anywhere as would prison or hospital.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but this should be allowed online, by post or by electronic methods, where appropriate

The interview should not be necessary before issuing the schedule but could be done immediately prior to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think in it's current form it is laborious however there is always a need for some emergency ceremony provision under the new procedures

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be valid for the same period as any other schedule.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be valid for the same period as any other schedule.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that all schedules could be valid for much longer than 12 months unless one party is in Scotland, where it involves marriage overseas or where one or both parties are foreign nationals. This would give much greater flexibility.

To protect public and individual interests I believe the ceremony and signing the schedule should be in the presence of the officiant otherwise you can't see off camera for instance if someone is being forced to marry.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Flexibility is absolutely the key with all the reform.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Everyone is at risk of death so it seems a very woolly statement that could not be justified in law or in practice.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should either marry here or overseas. It can't be both. This seems a stretch too far and very difficult for any governing body to manage.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

They should either marry here or overseas. It can't be both. This seems a stretch too far and very difficult for any governing body to manage.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe the paperwork for marriage should not include the venue or officiant. The legal paperwork should be about the individuals being legally free to marry. Their being free to marry should not be dependant on where within EorW. If however they wish to marry overseas then it should state overseas, Scotland should simply state Scotland etc.. so couples can change within reason the finer details of their day.

Gives much greater flexiblty to everyone and reduces need to do new paperwork when their status to marry hasn't changed, only their location of choice.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other than HM forces they should either marry here or overseas. It can't be both. This seems a stretch too far and very difficult for any governing body to manage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other than HM forces they should either marry here or overseas. It can't be both. This seems a stretch too far and very difficult for any governing body to manage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other than HM forces they should either marry here or overseas. It can't be both. This seems a stretch too far and very difficult for any governing body to manage.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Other than HM forces they should either marry here or overseas. It can't be both. This seems a stretch too far and very difficult for any governing body to manage.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other than HM forces they should either marry here or overseas. It can't be both. This seems a stretch too far and very difficult for any governing body to manage.

It is also unreasonable to be able to return the schedule whenever they wish. How could this system possible be sustained and in the public interests

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this should be tiered as the cost of doing this in a city is likely to be much cheaper than in a large geographic rural area.

Fees tend to be set in accordance with our main urban areas but this would be damaging to other areas.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Just because someone is ill does not mean they are not able to afford the appropriate fees which have to be paid by others. There are hardship policies in place should they need to be applied.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Due to different geographic areas and practices there could be no national fee that would apply in this instance

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, the cost of doing this is dependant on many local factors.

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would be ok for the actual delivery of the ceremony however this is a small part of the time and cost invested in any wedding by the registration service.

We must also recover costs for booking, the letters, emails, website info, the talking through ceremony choices and giving advice, printing paperwork and preparing the staff to attend. Their travel costs and travel time, training time and the time back in the office to input the schedule print and prepare



certificates and monitor and maintain security of the stock and registers. Postage costs etc It isn't as simple as the fee for turning up to the ceremony

#### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Taking emotion out of the situation the fee should be paid where appropriate and the hardship policy should apply where necessary.

The fee should be at the same level as for any other ceremony. These often take a considerable amount of work and impact upon other services where we may need to close offices to undertake such duties.

These ceremonies should not be seen as an ideal option when couples may have had years to form the marriage without impacting on so many other people.

I fully agree they are required and support their necessity but don't feel they should be encouraged. We should encourage people to marry at the appropriate point in their lives.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should apply to all officiants. Anglican, Civil, Nominated Other etc. and their should be online training required to fulfil the obligation to be licensed. Repeated annually to maintain the license

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure it would lead to an initial increase. The cost is certainly prohibitive for some and the rigidity is offputting for many. The flexibility and range of options from low cost and private to a full on celebration should mean it is open to everyone to be able to enjoy in their own way.

That said I think the majority still want the traditional wedding with the traditional vows and trimmings. It's like a right of passage for most. It's still a minority at this stage who want something alternative albeit that is slowly growing.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think it's getting too complicated and we are overthinking it.

I believe customers want to choose between Anglican, Nominated Other or Civil.

I believe civil should include all anglican and other religious ceremonies

I believe civil should be managed and licensed by the local authorities on behalf of the RG

The costs should be on recovery and broken down by booking, amendments, location, planning etc. That way couples can choose to make it as big and expensive or small and affordable as they wish and the service recovers the cost for each element as appropriate to their area.

I think preliminaries should all be civil and not include the location or date/time. These should not determine the validity of the couple to marry.

The length of the authority should be extended as appropriate to 2-3 years unless it's in Scotland (needs to be 3 months to match) foreign nationals or marrying overseas maybe 6 months.

At present the biggest thing that puts people off from discussions with friends and family is the pressure to do something different and usually expensive instead of keeping it simple and affordable.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think the new way could actually work out in some instances more expensive for couples once we begin to drill down to the cost for recovery.

I think couples will like the ability to do things their way and make it socially acceptable to have the wedding of their choice.

I am delighted we will be moving toward a more flexible approach with less judgement and archeic values attached.

I think being able to marry in village halls and do the planning and work themselves will be very attractive rather than bound by an expensive venue who may want to dictate how their day will flow.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8M-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-06 15:53:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a celebrant accredited with Humanists UK, but operating in the capacity of a sole trader.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For future protection of legal rights and as a public declaration of our love and commitment to one another

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We had a civil wedding, but would have preferred a legal Humanist Wedding in line with our beliefs. This would have enabled us to celebrate our marriage in a manner that reflected our beliefs, in a place of our choosing and without the additional cost of having to have a civil ceremony in addition to make it legal.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement of the weddings I had booked for this year and enquiries for future weddings have vastly reduced. This has had a significant impact on my income.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

3 days seems reasonable as most couples will arrive in the country a few days before their wedding to prepare and gives time to enable any additional checks to take place.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I do not have sufficient experience to answer this question.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think that the option to give notice remotely should address this problem.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Should include death or severe illness of a close relative

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It should be on a parr with all other ceremonies

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

It should be on a parr with all other ceremonies

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It should be on a parr with all other ceremonies

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the Church of England should be the nominating body and determine who is nominated as would be the case for other nominating bodies

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The term 'secular' does not include Humanist. It would make sense to make the definition consistent with that for same sex marriage.

Please share your views below:

It should be restricted to organisations that have a history of conducting rituals/ceremonies relating to significant life events.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest that it should have to be associated with an organisation that meets one of two sets of criteria, with two different outcomes:

- ☐ The first is 20 members meeting regularly in a specific religion or belief building, along with the belief in marriage bit. Any officiant tied to an organisation that meets this criterion would then be able to conduct marriages in this building only, or maybe in it and within say 5 miles of it. All existing religious providers would automatically meet this criterion, so could carry across to it without any paperwork.
- ☐ The second is a set of criteria related to officiants who want to be able to conduct marriages in any location. Since we don't have to worry about existing providers, we can now safely set much higher criteria, such as:
  - ☐ Something about how marriages can't be the primary thing an organisation does
  - ☐ Having in place procedures for the selection, training, accreditation, discipline, and de-accreditation, of fit and proper persons to conduct solemnisation of marriage, that are to the satisfaction of the registrar general (required in Ireland, previously considered here)
  - ☐ Having a higher minimum number of members in E+W signing a statement of support, e.g. 2,000, or maybe more
  - ☐ Being a registered religion or belief charity in England and Wales, possibly for a set period of time (this is already required in Northern Ireland and Ireland)
  - ☐ Having been in continuous existence as a religion or belief body in England and Wales for a set period of time, e.g. 5 years (required in Ireland) or 10 (previously considered here), or possibly a registered charity for that long
  - ☐ Having been performing weddings for its members in England and Wales for a set period of time, e.g. 5 years (previously considered here), such ceremonies being rooted in its belief system

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to satisfactory training and CPD

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that this proposal is unnecessarily vague and unhelpful.

I would suggest that it is changed to something along the lines of officiants are permitted to charge a fee that is a reasonable reflection of the their time, expenses and overheads associated with developing and conducting the ceremony, whilst the primary motivation of providing the service is to promote and express their beliefs.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be on a parity with religious and non-religious belief bodies

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be subject to conducting sufficient CPD and being peer reviewed in line with nominating bodies code of conduct

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a serious risk that registrars or commercial celebrants will start performing what they bill as 'humanist' ceremonies. This may lead to all sorts of employment law headaches for registrars. But we would also have concerns about people not properly trained in providing humanist ceremonies nonetheless claiming to offer them. We know religious groups have similar concerns. Instead, civil marriages should have to stay secular, or at the most be allowed to include content that may be religious or humanist in nature but is there for other reasons that are not religious or humanist – a bit like Humanists UK's policy regarding religious content in humanist ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Please see above.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No limitations

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unless deconsecrated or with the permission of the minister.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that officiants acting in an individual capacity have the organisational capacity to approve locations.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of a building, it should be the owner of the building who is responsible for the safety of the venue.

In the case of outdoor venues:

- where a couple are paying an individual or an organisation for the use of an outdoor venue, it should be the responsibility of the owning person/body to ensure that the venue is safe
- for a public space, e.g., woodland, beach, the couple should take responsibility for checking its safety and the officiant should advise where necessary and seek confirmation from the couple.

As individual practitioners in most cases, it would be unreasonable to expect the officiant to be fully responsible for approving the venue.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to answer above. This should be guidance to inform the officiant's risk assessment but not something that they are held responsible for.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Responsibility should lie with the organisation that currently authorises locations as they have the experience and organisational systems.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Or other officiants nominated by an approved nominating body, e.g. Humanist Celebrant

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be consistent with all nominated officiants

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be any nominated officiant

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not known

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See below

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Humanist Celebrants already pay a levy to Humanists UK in part to maintain their accreditation. If the Registrar General is satisfied that Humanists UK is an appropriate nominating body, it should accept their decision whether or not to authorise an individual officiant and therefore there should be no additional cost to the Registrar General's office.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Whilst the current law may not discourage or prevent significant numbers of couples from getting married, it does make it more complicated and expensive for those who want a legal ceremony that is not a civil or religious ceremony. This is discriminatory.

The proposed changes may lead to an increase in the number of couples being legally married, but I am not aware of any reliable statistics on this question.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

For couples wanting a Humanist wedding, they are required to have a separate legally recognised wedding (usually a civil ceremony). This has an impact on costs, particularly if they want this to take place at the same venue where they have their Humanist ceremony. This also restricts the choice of locations to approved premises, which may be more costly than other locations such as private gardens/homes or public spaces.

Having to have two ceremonies also leads to confusion for guests and may detract from the ceremony that the couple deem to be their 'true ceremony'.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please see above

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe that this would vastly increase the number of venues that decide to offer wedding ceremonies, thus giving a welcome boost to small and medium sized enterprises.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No comment

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRD-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-06 16:04:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

When we married in 2016, we had few choices; a soul-less wedding with a registrar, or a wedding in a church which did not recognise our spiritual beliefs and where we could not be true to ourselves. A third option, would have been to go to another country within the UK (or abroad) where the law permitted weddings of our choice, which would have added an extra expense to our wedding - but we wanted to get married in our home county in England and be close to our family.

In the end, so that we could complete the legal aspect of our marriage, we opted for a basic registry wedding (which doubled the cost as the registrars

came out to the venue as we wanted both ceremonies to take place on the same day), and then had a wedding blessing as our main ceremony, held by an officiant of our choice (in this case a fellow OneSpirit Interfaith Minister). This enabled us to have our spiritual beliefs acknowledged, not only in a meaningful ceremony to us with the officiant of our choice, but also one where we were able to co-create the content with the minister, and most importantly, create our own wedding vows.

We would have preferred to have had our minister complete the whole wedding in the venue of our choice, rather than have it in held in two parts - especially as we had never met the registrars before, had no idea who they were, and will never see them again, and yet, they were part of one of the most important days of our life.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would enable couples to marry in a location of their choice, whether they live in the area or not. England and Wales has some stunning countryside and beautiful wedding locations, which could be very attractive to couples contemplating getting married in a special place to them.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be helpful to those couples marrying in a location that isn't near their home, this means they wouldn't have to travel to the area just to give notice, saving on time and further expense.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple are travelling some distance to the wedding venue, then a minimum period of 24 hours before the wedding might be helpful for the in-person interview. This could help minimise needing multiple journeys (and the expense that they may incur) to complete the paperwork.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

A multitude of emotions can be hidden within a conference call, it would be impossible to know if the party being interviewed was being intimidated by someone the interviewer couldn't see - unless the interviewer is highly skilled, they may not pick this up. In-person interviews would also surely add a level of safety and security for anyone being coerced or forced into a marriage?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In this digital age when we turn to our mobile devices for all sorts of help and information, it doesn't make sense not to have this facility; and it would also enable anyone who has a legitimate objection to a wedding a better chance of being able to make that objection.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Offers greater flexibility to the couple in their wedding plans, and in the event of anything unforeseen happening to the date they planned originally.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Identifying the officiant on the schedule when registering a wedding would highlight anyone endeavouring to mislead a couple by stating that they are a registered officiant and therefore able to hold the legal aspect of a wedding, assuming that the Registration Service will be responsible for keeping an updated listing of officiants from all organisations.

And life happens, and sometimes officiants become unavailable, so being able to have an amended schedule is imperative. Although protocols for amendments to a schedule should an officiant become unavailable on the day would need to be considered.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, as mentioned above - life happens, and sometimes officiants are not able to be there on the day for various reasons, so protocols for a substitute officiant to step in are vital.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, holding the legal aspect of a wedding is a serious matter, and officiants should be required by law to ensure that the above criteria are met.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a registrar will not have been trained/ordained in any religious/spiritual rites, then yes, they should only be able to officiate at civil weddings.

Consultation Question 21:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

If it is safe to do so, yes. It depends where the wedding is being held and at what time, and that as a lone worker, the registrar would need to be sure that their well-being was being taken into consideration.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the nominating organisation to ensure that their officiants are up to date with wedding law, are considered fit and proper persons to hold such ceremonies and meet whatever stringent criteria the organisation has in place for the continuing development of their officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that does not respect all humanity or has a code of ethics that promotes intolerance and supports violence to others who are not of the same ethnicity/sexuality/ or race.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as shared above.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If officiants are named on wedding schedules, then the GRO will have to keep a list of nominated officiants, otherwise it would be easy for unscrupulous celebrants, who have not been nominated by an organisation, to run a wedding business and not be held to account.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants/officiants are generally in business to hold ceremony for profit, as a way of making a living - how would enabling independent celebrants to be included on the public listing keep the sanctity and integrity of marriage?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation I am registered with take this issue very seriously. They have a strict criteria which its officiants must meet before being considered for nomination to the list of solemnisers in those countries within the UK where wedding law allows for this. It audits its officiants on a regular basis to ensure that they are keeping to a schedule of self-development, not promoting themselves for profit, are upholding the ethics of the organisation, and are up to date with any changes in wedding law, so that they can be recognised as 'fit and proper' persons to hold legal weddings.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have expanded on this above.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should weddings become a business and a way of making a living, there is a greater chance of the profit gained from holding weddings taking precedence over the meaning of a wedding to a couple.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If allowed, an officiant will hold a pivotal role at a wedding, and therefore the expenses undertaken in providing that role should be met and covered accordingly. However, if a limit on fees is not set, then this could leave the door wide open for officiants to run a business for a hefty profit in what could become a tawdry commercial enterprise, with little thought for the couple getting married.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If officiants could register with more than one organisation, then as an example, a conflict of interest could arise in the case of any issues around a wedding, if a complaint needed to be raised, or the officiant did not conduct the wedding to the appropriate ethical or legal standard.

If the officiant was authorised by more than one organisation - there could be argument as to where the complaint rested and that could become very messy and costly legally.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, whilst there must be a degree of flexibility to meet a couple's personal wishes, it must be the officiants responsibility to ensure the ceremony is dignified, acknowledges the solemnity of marriage, and also held in safety.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

General guidance on the legal aspects that the GRO require in each ceremony would be essential, but how the weddings should be conducted should be up to the individual organisation and the couples wishes.

Also, guidance from the GRO on process such as if an officiant suspected a sham/forced marriage for instance would be necessary.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation that the officiant is nominated by should have that responsibility, and hopefully will be operating within a strong ethical and governance framework which would pick up any officiants who were failing in their duties and remove them from the register accordingly.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the GRO should have the power to remove nominated officiants. However, I would hope not without conversation with the officiant and the nominating organisation first, and if that fails, then also the authority to withdrawn the organisations nomination status until the matter had been resolved.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would not be in favour of independent officiants being able to be nominated, whether monitored by the GRO or not.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would be in favour of officiants being nominated for a period of say three years, after which the organisation they are nominated by would re-nominate them. This would ensure a level of professionalism and commitment to the role.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is vital that an officiant keeps themselves up to date with CPD, any changes in wedding law, and takes into account their health and well-being.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely if a ceremony contains any religious/spiritual content, then it simply isn't a civil ceremony?

It is a good idea to be able to offer a ceremony that contains a spiritual element, as perhaps a third option to having either a religious or civil ceremony.

As an interfaith minister, I know that there are many who would deem themselves spiritual rather than religious, and would ideally require a 'spiritual' ceremony that doesn't rely on content taken from the traditional orthodox religions.

Religion and spirituality are not the same thing, and it is time attention was paid to this, with couples wishing to marry having their personal wishes and beliefs met outside of orthodox religions or a barebones civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

No - I cannot see how a civil wedding can still be classed as a civil wedding, if it holds religious/spiritual content.

And would those who were offering the religious content options at civil weddings, have been trained to do so?

I wouldn't like a Registrar, for instance, who has no formal training in spirituality, or interest in my spirituality, to conduct my wedding, and just be spouting text that they happen to have been asked to read.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Without public access, objections would not be able to be made, unless there is going to be a function on the GRO website for this, when wedding notices are listed. And also, would it not make sham/forced marriage easier if weddings could be held behind closed doors?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anywhere that the officiant deems safe and dignified.

Please share your views below:

If accessible to anyone, and safe to do so, there should be no limit to where a wedding can be held.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, for the safety of all involved in the wedding, public access should be available.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be able to assess whether the proposed location is safe, or indeed whether they are prepared to hold the wedding there.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will be an important part of an officiant's role, if the law is changed so that weddings can take place anywhere. Suggestions from the GRO on what is deemed safe and dignified could form part of their guidance to nominating bodies.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If a venue is regularly used, then perhaps a system similar to that in operation now, where the venue applies to the GRO for a licence to become a registered venue. This could be renewed annually, and would ensure that the venue complies with a required criteria of safety measures so that an officiant would know that all was in order.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Mistakes can be easily rectified;

The officiant is a witness

But if the marriage document isn't signed or registered, what evidence remains that the couple agree to be married?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYP-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-06 16:40:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

AS A HUMANIST CELEBRANT I SHOULD HAVE conducted 35 wedding ceremonies this year. As it is, due to Coronavirus restrictions, I have only conducted 1 (one) because my couples have postponed their weddings to 2021 or 2022 in the hope that restrictions will have been lifted

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an outdated requirement, particularly for couples who do not reside in the area where they wish to marry.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if that interview may also be conducted online as an additional requirement.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

This is sufficient time for any checks and queries to be clarified where necessary and would not require the couple to be resident in the area.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes - as in 6 above

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, so long as reciprocal arrangements/checks are possible within the timeframe.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason not to as far as I can see.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a Humanist celebrant my contract is with the couple - their contract is not with 'a service provider'. They choose me on the basis of an interview to check me out and to ensure they are satisfied that I will represent them and their views in a Humanist ceremony. I do not contract 'substitutes' my USP is a personal preparation and to conduct the ceremony in person except in exceptional circumstances.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As 11 above, but the key is that the couple have the opportunity to develop their relationship with their chosen celebrant.

Please share your views below:

Only with the couples' agreement and in exceptional circumstances. NEVER as a matter of course for reasons set out above.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I have no view.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, possibly, in order to check that there is no coercion or that this is a forced marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

for reasons above

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My strong contention is that accredited Humanist celebrants should be able to officiate at civil weddings and for this NOT to be the sole responsibility of registration officers - based on what my wedding couples have told me this would be their preference.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view. My contention is that accredited Humanist celebrants should be legally allowed to officiate.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My view as an accredited Humanist celebrant.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

My strong contention is that ONLY accredited Humanist celebrants should be allowed to officiate at a wedding and not commercial celebrants where training is inconsistent, where there is no official body to which couples have redress and where celebrants are not required to be re-accredited, demonstrate their continuing professional practice, and have their practice observed as part of re-accreditation.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, my belief here is that organisations should nominate officiants by name only as a form of quality control and recommendation. I would not recommend a blanket nomination.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However I would add that the General Register Office regulations should be examined and adjusted in order to ensure that none of its rules unintentionally discriminate against celebrants other than former ROs.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

because the GRO would need to keep a public list of officiants for examination.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As would be expected in best practice.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the reason that if as an accredited Humanist celebrant I am asked to officiate in [REDACTED] and the couple have chosen me, then my daily rate for officiating does not cover the amount of time it takes to travel to [REDACTED] nor to arrive the day before as would be my practice, in order to do a run-through of the ceremony the day before. It should not be assumed that what Humanist celebrants do is the SAME as what registrars do. It is not. The fees reflect the length of time it takes to work with a couple and write their individual ceremony tailored to them as a couple and including information that is pertinent to them and which tells their story. This takes time. Humanist ceremonies are not 'off the shelf' ceremonies and fees will differ depending on how much time is spent preparing the ceremony and in travelling to deliver the ceremony. This is why couples choose a Humanist celebrant and not a Registrar. A standard fee would not cover this.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As 32 above

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. That is what we do already.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only in general terms and in order to clarify what legal aspects of the ceremony makes it legal. Not to determine content otherwise.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Partially. My concern is that if Humanist celebrants are included as an officiant, that the GRO will also need to change in order to incorporate areas different to that which have been encountered before. I would be wary of the GRO coercing Humanist celebrants to become more 'like' Registrars, for example, by the imposition of standards that would not be congruent with Humanism as a non-belief system.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise what would differentiate a civil ceremony from a religious one?

Please share your views below:

as above

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

i have no view

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, the law should not limit weddings in any particular venue.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is not relevant in the 21st century.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without question.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None to my knowledge. All individuals who wish to marry should have the opportunity to do so regardless of where they reside or the state of their health.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so long as a timely interview is possible and the individual is not asked to wait.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I have insufficient knowledge to answer this question.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Probably yes so long as it completely covers their costs and time.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know. I officiate at a range of venues and geographical areas across England so if as a Humanist celebrant I was authorised to officiate, I would want to charge my fee to reflect this and not have it set by regulation.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't actually understand this question.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. The law 100% discourages AND prevents couples getting married where they want and are actively choosing a Humanist ceremony because Humanist ceremonies are not legal in England and Wales although they are in NI, Scotland and Jersey.

2. Yes, absolutely it would.

I would say that 90% of my wedding couples have had to undertake an additional RO ceremony and all the costs involved in order for their marriage to be lawful. They choose a Humanist ceremony because it represents who they are and how they live their life (ie the RO does not offer this level of preparation and personalisation, and a commercial celebrant will not share the same Humanist views as the couple). It is in the act of choosing a Humanist celebrant to marry a Humanist couple that the circle is closed. Currently this circle is interrupted by being forced to undertake an additional legal ceremony. This is time consuming and costly. And unnecessary given that if they happened to be in Scotland, NI or Jersey they would not have had to do this.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. couples are restricted by when the RO can make an appointment for their ceremony and where the ceremony can take place
- 2 the cost of marrying on approved premises increases the overall cost of the wedding
- 3 ditto above

4 marrying in unauthorised locations means they have to have a second legal ceremony and thus increase cost burden  
5 as above.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1 ROs are busy places that feel like conveyor belts. they do not guarantee the same person that interviewed them will be the person marrying them. ROs are costly particularly if a couple want to have a second Humanist ceremony that represents their beliefs.

2 couples would have more choice if they could marry wherever they want. Increasingly couples do not associate churches, ROs, places of worship or even approved premises as representing nor fitting in with what they want on their wedding day.

3 See 1 above.

Re evidence, in 2020 we have seen so many ceremonies cancelled or postponed. If my couples want to postpone and rebook they also have to do so with the RO. This is time consuming and would not be necessary if Humanist celebrants were approved as officiants.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. I have been very disappointed in the number of venues that have asked my couples for additional fees once their wedding has been postponed due to coronavirus.

2. Subsequently my couples have experienced difficulty re-booking with registrars and time and time again say that if they only had to re-book once they prefer the approach of the celebrant to the RO. In particular they resent paying the RO to attend approved premises only to offer a rushed and routine standard ceremony, so unlike what a Humanist celebrant would offer. ROs do not represent value for money for a couple who want a completely personalised ceremony.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1 This would increase the number of venues and increase competition between venues but it would also increase the choice available to couples and potentially the cost

2 If Humanist celebrants were approved this would increase the pool of officers available

3 I have no opinion

4 As in Scotland and Northern Ireland, the business opportunities would increase and this would be a rare thing in the current economic climate.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no answer

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have insufficient knowledge of the law in this respect, to answer adequately.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

ditto

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

ditto

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

ditto

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1,2,3 I have no idea

4 Humanist celebrants would incur costs of additional training in order to become legally complaint I assume

5 the main beneficiaries would be the couples because they would have more choice, there would be more competition and potentially the market rates would be competitive.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD7U-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-06 16:42:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It is important for couples to be able to access a cut-down, Covid secure marriage ceremony even during lock down. The ceremony should be as simple as possible with no guests - only 2 registrars, the couple and 2 witnesses.

I personally know of 3 couples who were prevented from marrying during the first lock down and the lady has subsequently fallen pregnant. Their children will therefore be born out of wedlock.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The residency requirement is anachronistic and makes no sense as it is impossible to verify at the time of the wedding. It adds to the bureaucracy.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

7 days allow more time for someone to change their mind - eg in a forced marriage. Most commercial contracts have a cooling off period and the 7 day wait would in effect be a cooling off period

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I am not in favour of remote interviews.

Technology can and does fail

Not everyone has access to suitable video services - this would therefore be discriminatory

It is more difficult to check for coercion when interviews are done by video

It is very difficult to see if an accomplice is out of sight and feeding answers to the respondent

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

You should be allowed to give notice in Scotland only whilst Scotland remains part of the UK.

It should not be possible to give notice in a specified Commonwealth country or territory. Who would administer this? The FCDO would be very reluctant to take on this extra work

It should not be possible to give notice on board a naval ship. This just complicates matters and would be used very very rarely - simply not worth the hassle for little gain.

Note, however that if it becomes possible to start the process of giving notice by video link then it will be impossible to check where the applicants are at the time of the video call.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current system of posting notices only in a Register Office is ineffective. Very few people visit a Register Office to check.

Care would need to be taken with personal info going on a publicly accessible database to avoid coercion, stalking and even burglary (house will be empty on wedding day and may be full of presents). Occupations of the couples should not be shown publicly for their own safety eg police officer, magistrate, armed forces etc

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

12 months allows sufficient time to rearrange or postpone a wedding. During this time it is unlikely that material facts will have changed that would make the notice invalid.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For Register Offices, the schedule should say Any Licensed Officiant employed by X Register Office. This is because some weddings are booked 12 months in advance and it is impossible to guarantee the availability of an officiant so far in advance

For non Register Office weddings, the officiant should be named plus one substitute so that interested parties can check that the officiant is properly authorised to conduct the wedding. If the Registration Service is required to issue an amended schedule with different names this should be a chargeable service

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Best to nominate 2 officiants at the time of application - this will reduce paperwork if the first choice officiant is not available on the day.

Please share your views below:

A substitute officiant from any Register Office should be able to act in all circumstances

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is anachronistic

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It is better to completely separate out religious and civil marriages.

All couples should be required to give a civil notice and the notice published in the agreed format (eg Register Office as now or perhaps an online database in the future).

If churches wish to additionally read banns and publish them, it is entirely up to them how they do it and where they post the banns. Church Banns would have no legal validity

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

All legal preliminaries and paperwork should be dealt with exclusively by a Register Office as they have the experience and expertise to deal with them quickly and efficiently. (Some clergy conduct very few weddings and as such are more likely to make mistakes)

Once the Register Office has cleared the paperwork and met the couple, they will be free to go to a church for their ceremony

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

See answer to 16 - this should be the preserve of a Register Office

Both of the couple should make separate declarations to the appropriate person

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Register Offices have the experience and expertise to handle the preliminaries to a high and consistent standard whereas churches do not. it is important to separate out the legal formalities from the ceremonial or religious formalities. The church should have no role in processing the legal formalities

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is vital to separate out religious and civil ceremonies  
If a couple wishes to have a religious celebrant they are free to marry in church or to have some sort of religious blessing after the civil wedding

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, Register Offices should be able to send 2 officers at their sole discretion  
(assistance with large weddings, general back up if things go wrong or for extra expert opinion if needed)

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if trained and certified as being trained.  
Re-certification should be mandatory every two years as many clerks conduct few weddings

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but all officiants need to be trained and certified as being trained.  
Re-certification should be mandatory every two years

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be both a prescribed and proscribed list

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



but all officiants must be properly trained and certified and recertified at regular intervals

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I strongly agree

There should be a prescribed and a proscribed list of organisations for weddings

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I do not agree

All officiants should be trained and certified. It would be incumbent upon the organisation to train up officiants who hold certain offices

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation must certify that the proposed officiant is fit and proper (and this description needs to be defined by the GRO eg Resident in the UK, 18 years or over, DBS checked, speak fluent English etc etc)

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it should be up to religious, non religious and independent celebrants to decide their fees eg free, cost recovery, profit etc. However it is vital that there is a low cost option for marriage at a Register Office which operates on a cost recovery basis

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what a conflict of interest would be!

Agree that there should be no limit on fees

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The important thing is for the officiant to be trained and certified. They can then conduct a legal marriage ceremony in any setting by adjusting the content according to the organisation that asked them to officiate

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree though this will be difficult to police and may be unpopular with couples .

Perhaps better to have a short section in all ceremonies with the prescribed words that have to be said in a dignified and solemn manner. Thereafter the ceremony can continue in whatever format the couple wishes

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree. This is vital for consistency. It will also mean that guidance can be updated centrally to all officiants

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Primary responsibility yes but additionally all officiants should be subject to unannounced inspection by the local Register Office or GRO inspectors

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Register Office staff should be authorised for the period of their employment plus one year after departure.

Other officiants should be authorised for 12 months with a light touch re-authorisation every year and a more detailed one every 5 years

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree. But appropriate continuing training should be provided by the GRO and charged at cost recovery rates. This would reduce the chance of external training providers supplying poor quality courses at elevated prices

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1a it should be a requirement that consent is given in writing eg on the schedule. It would be for the couples and celebrant to decide if they optionally wanted to give oral consent

1b Disagree. This is their last opportunity to declare they are free to marry. If they lie, they will have lied during the preliminaries and during the ceremony thereby making conviction for perjury more easy

2. Disagree. There must be consistency across all forms of marriage. By making written consent a requirement, this option falls away as the schedule with the signed consent would be returned to the GRO

3. Strongly agree

4. For the elimination of any doubt, the marriage should be formed at the point when both parties have signed the schedule

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be minimum requirements and standards eg certain words to be said or declarations to be signed, the location should be appropriate, and the legal part of the ceremony must be done in a dignified and seemly manner

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage in all its formats should be standardised. This standardisation could be in the form of legal template. This template should then be inserted into all weddings whether religious or civil. It would then be up to the churches to add on any religious or traditional element that they agree with the couple.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Very strongly disagree when weddings are conducted in a Register Office. There needs to be an option for a completely secular ceremony. Some Registrars may be offended by being asked to include religious content.

For non church weddings that are not conducted in a Register Office then it is up to the couple and the celebrant to decide the content

Please share your views below:

There should be no religious content in a Register Office wedding.

For weddings conducted outside a Register Office it should be up to the couple and the officiant to decide what to include

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what the background to this is. But we need to maintain the law that prohibits two marriage ceremonies. If you have a civil wedding ceremony you cannot have a religious wedding ceremony afterwards. You can of course have some sort of blessing or religious celebration - but not another wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly disagree. Closed door ceremonies could facilitate sham or forced marriages. Closed doors could mean that non official celebrants conduct a fake marriage

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a requirement that the owner of the land or building should give express written approval for a marriage to be conducted there. This would stop couples causing disruption (eg wanting to marry in Trafalgar Sq); would stop couples causing offence (Christian couples marrying on the pavement in front of a mosque).

Locations need to be safe from a health and safety point of view as well as being safe and secure for officiants.

Please share your views below:

Outdoor areas are fine provided they are safe (eg not on the edge of a cliff top)

Weddings should not be allowed in the air - distracting to crew if in a small aircraft; doubts about location of wedding if the ceremony was done outside UK airspace; not open to members of the public; not open to scrutiny by local Register Office or GRO inspectors. It would also be vulgar!

Private homes should not be allowed unless they have been pre-approved by the council (safety of registrars going into a private home, lack of space, dangerous dogs)

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be publicly accessible to facilitate scrutiny

Locations do not need to be regularly available for other marriage ceremonies

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious and civil weddings should remain separate and distinct in both content and location

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, there may be pressure on a celebrant to approve a grotty flat that will be overcrowded with guests and dogs etc (health and safety issues here)

If officiants are required to approve wedding locations their decisions may be subjective and inconsistent

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants are not qualified to say whether a location is safe. Approval should be the exclusive preserve of the Register Office  
The wedding location must be specified in advance (as it is now) - this will prevent any last minute problems if anyone considers the location to be unsafe or undignified

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is essential but it should be drawn up for Register Offices only and not officiants

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All venues must be pre-approved. Approval could last for 1 year or longer

Please share your views below:

The venue owner should request approval  
The Register Office should inspect then approve or reject  
Approval could last 12, 24 or 36 months  
An approval fee would be payable to the Register Office. This should be set at cost recovery plus a healthy margin to prevent frivolous applications

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 should be compulsory  
3 should be optional

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to keep the option to register in both English and Welsh as one party may not speak the other language

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but what about signatures? How will digital signatures be applied?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2 witnesses are essential. The lack of witnesses could facilitate sham or forced marriages

3. The marriage document needs to be signed at the time of the ceremony as it should contain a written statement saying both parties agree to the marriage. In the event of an administrative mistake where the document is not signed the couple should have the option to sign it with the original witnesses within 7 working days of the original ceremony.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage was traditionally all about living together for ever but society has changed and if a couple wish to marry but not live together then it is not the State's role to prevent them from doing so

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We need to be absolutely clear here. If you marry you get all the protections and benefits of marriage.

if you chose not to marry then these protections and benefits are not available to you.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree. This may discourage "gold diggers" who persuade a terminally ill person to marry so that they can benefit from a will

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A single authority is sufficient for all types of marriage. However, the decision to waive the Notice Period or perform an RG Marriage should remain with the GRO and not the local registration service.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep things simple - all schedules for all couples to be valid for the same period of time. However a new Authority to Marry will need to be issued if the location of the marriage changes eg from hospital to care home to hospice etc

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep things simple - all schedules for all couples to be valid for the same period of time. However a new Authority to Marry will need to be issued if the location of the marriage changes eg from hospital to care home to hospice or prison etc

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. and 4. Strongly disagree. Weddings should always be conducted in person with all parties present in the same room. This will help reduce forced marriages, coercion, sham marriages etc.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs careful clarification. What for instance would risk of death entail? Eg a soldier told at short notice he is being posted to Afghanistan? A racing driver trying to break a world speed record? A bomb disposal person called to an unexploded bomb?

For those in hazardous occupations it is incumbent on them to plan their marriage arrangements to fit their risk

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

And what happens if the vessel drifts outside territorial waters

These "trophy" weddings cheapen marriage. What's to stop a couple marrying and then going on a boat trip to celebrate?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a welcome boast to the cruising industry and there is a very good chance that the ceremony would be conducted professionally. Celebrants (eg Captain) would need to be a British Citizen and to have undergone mandatory training and assessment

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No - this would open up the opportunity for forced marriages, sham weddings, coercion etc without any possibility for outside scrutiny. How would anyone assess the vessel as being suitable?

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Vessel details should be compulsory as well as details of the officiant. this will allow checks to be made after the ceremony if doubts were raised about the validity of the wedding or the conduct of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Simplicity and consistency is key.  
The fee to give notice is not expensive

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be cost recovery plus a premium - this will help to deter frivolous applications

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cost recovery plus small premium

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Travel time is too complicated - how would it be calculated - notional mileage rate (but this would be more expensive in London), cost of a taxi, cost of a bus? What happens if on the day of the ceremony the actual travel time is far more than the amount charged eg due to traffic?  
A travel time addition is unlikely to be much eg £5 per hour and to charge such a small amount looks petty to a couple and is an added admin burden for Register Offices to deal with.  
Much better to allow Register Offices to continue to set their own all inclusive fee for the attendance of registrars at venues other than the Register Office

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Register Offices should be allowed to set their own fees for discretionary services. The guiding principal is that they should be cost recovery plus a premium. The GRO could give recommended fees for offices in London and elsewhere but they would not be compulsory

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. The law does discourage couples from marrying - if the requirement to Give Notice were abolished we would see a huge increase in marriages arranged at short notice or even walk-in marriages. However the requirement to give notice is a vital brake and allows couples to reflect on their decision to marry; it allows others to object if there are grounds for a legal objection and it allows UKBA time to carry out immigration checks where appropriate.

The current law also discourages couples from getting married in the format that they want.

2 If the proposals lead to: an increase in places where couples can marry; a more informal and personal ceremony conducted by a wider range of officiants; as well as making the whole process less complicated then I do believe it will lead to an increase in weddings

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. It is vital to keep an option for a cheap and simple marriage ceremony at a Register Office. The current statutory fee is about right.
2. The cost of marrying at a licensed venue is a commercial matter for the couple and the venue owner. Government has no role in this part. However the cost of providing Register Office staff to attend a venue wedding is another matter and this should be decided by individual Register Offices
3. The cost of marrying in a place of worship where no Register Office staff are required to attend should be a commercial matter between the couple and the venue
4. I do not understand this - if a venue is not authorised for weddings it cannot have weddings
5. See answer to 1 above in this box. It is up to the couple if they want a more extravagant event

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. There would be no change in the availability of Register Office weddings. There may be a longer wait to get an appointment to Give Notice if all Notices have to be processed at a Register Office
2. A pre-approval process is vital and the cost included in any fees
3. There would be no change. Register Offices offer a statutory wedding service and will continue to do so

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. If venues wish to be licensed they need to pay the licence fee. If they cannot get a licence because they cannot fulfil the requirements they either give up or make changes to their premises or procedures so that they fulfil the requirements
2. Registrars need to be booked in advance so that they are available to conduct ceremonies at venues. The fees for the attendance of Registrars at outside venues should be a matter for Register Offices and calculated on a cost recovery basis plus premium which includes travel time and parking etc

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. There will be lots of one-off weddings at venues if pre-approval is not required. This may provide a modest increase in revenue for the venues
2. If trained Register Office staff are the officiants, the venue (and indeed the couple) can be assured of a professionally conducted ceremony. Registrars need to be booked in advance
3. There will be a very small increase in business opportunities. But I believe if couples want a religious ceremony most will want to have it in a place of religious relevance
4. I believe there will be an immediate but small increase in marriages conducted under any liberalised arrangements. This will in turn lead to greater business opportunities eg for venue hire and hire of non official officiants.

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is helpful that currently marriage legislation and GRO guidance is applied consistently by all Register Offices

Where fees are statutory they should be given in a range ie so that London Register Offices and offices with high demand for statutory services should be able to charge at the top end of a scale of fees whereas quieter Register Offices or those in deprived areas would be able to charge at the bottom end of a scale of fees.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Removing Church Banns and centralising Giving Notice to Marry in Register Offices would increase demand for this service slightly and therefore increase revenue but as the fee is cost recovery there would be little benefit for individual Register Offices

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. If you mean other FOREIGN jurisdictions (and not Scotland and N Ireland), then it is up to the foreign jurisdiction to specify what pre marriage formality (eg CoNI) is required and who is able to produce the paperwork. In an ideal world HMG would tell all foreign jurisdictions that the only paperwork they will provide to facilitate the marriage of British Citizens overseas is a standard Authority to Marry which has followed the normal Giving Notice to Marry procedure.

2. Foreigners wishing to marry in the UK currently follow exactly the same procedures as UK residents - they need to give notice to marry. The only variation is the need to translate documents, verify foreign divorces and translate documents if necessary. I see no need to change any of this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This is a matter for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Allowing ceremonies on board cruise ships would give a welcome economic boost to this industry

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. There will be increased set up and training costs
2. No change - they will need to apply and pay for a licence
- 3 and 4 They will need to pay for their officiants to be trained and certified
- 5 No change

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDY9-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-06 17:05:07

### About you

What is your name?

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is recognised by law; however, in addition to the brief registry office ceremony that was the legal element, we also had a Humanist ceremony as that reflected our beliefs and allowed us to have the celebration that was meaningful for us. It was annoying to have to go to the registry office in addition to our chosen ceremony.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The wedding that was both meaningful and personal to us was the Humanist ceremony that we had. As that is not (yet) recognised in law, we were forced to also go to a registry office in order to have a legally binding wedding. In our view, that was both unnecessary and discriminated against our belief system.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree that a balance needs to be struck between giving couples flexibility and ensuring protection for those who may be being forced or coerced into a marriage. The proposal above seems reasonable, with the caveat that if it is widely known that an in-person interview is required only in the case of suspicious circumstances, a requirement to meet in person might cause alarm and, if one of the parties is being coerced, put that party in danger.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

That would seem reasonable.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the couples should be given the choice about whether or not the notice is displayed online.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see the point of that.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is obvious that if the planned officiant is unable to attend unexpectedly, an alternative should be available if possible, to allow the wedding to go ahead.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it is essential that people who have a sincere and coherent set of beliefs and who live their lives in accordance with those beliefs should be allowed to be married, in a legally binding ceremony, by an officiant who is authorised by the organisation that represents their beliefs. A coherent and sincerely held belief system that does not involve a deity or religious worship is nonetheless profoundly meaningful and should be recognised as such. Individuals (such as myself) should have a right to celebrate the milestones and significant events in their lives within their belief system and not have to effectively be forced into two separate ceremonies in order to be legally married.

Please share your views below:

I believe that, for the sake of clarity and transparency, there should be list of organisations that DO amount to non-religious belief organisations. If it is helpful for legal and administrative purposes to also have a list of types of organisations that do not amount to non-religious belief organisations, then I don't see a problem with that, personally. It may be helpful to enable people to understand the reasons why different organisations have different designations in terms of their ability to officiate a legally binding wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. I think the requirement for at least 20 members is too low: that would open the system up to abuse by minority cults.
2. I think that the requirement to "meet regularly for worship or in furtherance of their beliefs" is too restrictive and would potentially exclude groups who are large in number but meet only once a year, for example. "Regularly" is a vague term and would need clarification.

I think a better way to identify groups who could nominate officiants would be to consider the status of the group in terms of membership numbers, whether it has a structure and a clearly accessible and established rationale and purpose, etc.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think the essential thing is the training that officiants would have. If individuals appointed to a particular office would have the key training automatically as a pre-requisite to holding that office, then nominating by office would fine. Otherwise, it should be named , qualified individuals.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants who are from non-religious belief organisations do not have any form of income or material support from their organisation and as such should be able to charge for conducting ceremonies. This, from a couple's point of view, is entirely in-line with the fact that registrars charge for ceremonies. Prohibiting officiants from non-religious belief organisations from charging for conducting ceremonies would effectively prevent them from holding ceremonies and thus be discriminatory. Officiants from religious organisations receive financial and material support in order to be able to function and not have to seek employment elsewhere to gain an income and survive economically. Removing from non-religious officiants the ability to survive economically is a deeply unfair and patently absurd proposal.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that independent officiants should be able to charge for officiating at weddings, as long as officiants from non-religious belief organisations can also charge. Anything else would mean that independent officiants are economically viable but officiants from non-religious belief organisations are economically prevented from conducting ceremonies in any meaningful way or on any significant scale.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that:

anyone proposing to be an officiant with any organisation should be legally required to fully disclose any other accreditation that they have to officiate weddings;

once that full disclosure has happened, it would be up to the organisation to decide if they feel it is congruent with their belief structure to train and then accredit the individual to officiate weddings from within their own organisation.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think that religious content should primarily come from participants in the ceremony or guests (e.g. those giving a reading could read from a religious text, or music played/sung could be religious in nature). I do not think that there should be an expectation that a civil officiant should actively deliver religious elements, especially as they may run counter to the officiant's own beliefs.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

As long as the wedding ceremony itself is not held in a place that would be objectionable to those not involved in the wedding, or in a setting that is actively dangerous and risks those involved being harmed, I don't think there should be legal restrictions on where they can be held.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

For venues such as hotels etc., I think the current registration process should continue. For other locations such as outdoors or private homes, I think there should be a set of clear criteria, and if the location meets that criteria, it could be submitted to the General Register Office for pre-approval.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that in emergency situations, the requirement to have a notice period between giving notice of intention to marry and having the wedding ceremony should be waived.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I think that non-religious belief weddings should be allowed to take place wherever civil weddings can take place, including in international waters. Unlike religious weddings, non-religious belief weddings typically do not have any adherence to a specific building or structure that is associated with worship, and so getting married outside (especially in nature, which can form a strong part of the non-religious belief structure) should be facilitated.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the person is housebound due to a disability, having to pay a fee could be discriminatory. The circumstances under which a fee is charged should be more nuanced than the description above, or there should be clear circumstances under which the fee must be waived.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unless it is the case that the housebound person would otherwise have travelled to the Register Office, thus not requiring the registration officer to incur any costs in travelling to the house.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There are couples currently who choose not to marry as they do not subscribe to the "institution" of marriage. If the current proposals, in enabling greater flexibility and personalisation of ceremonies, can remove the perception of an institution that is restrictive, they would hopefully lead to an increase in couples who get legally married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs and the inconvenience of having a separate, legally recognised wedding in addition to a wedding that is conducted according to a set of non-religious beliefs are burdensome, unfair and discriminatory.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYN-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-08 11:18:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be greater flexibility and that a lot of the interviews could be carried out online, and that to meet in person could be done on the same day as the wedding if there were limitations to travel.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I agree with this.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes of course. Love travels.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One of the benefits of being with a reputable organisation like Humanists UK is the fact that we can support each other and, in the unlikely event I could not conduct the wedding, I know that there are many well-trained celebrants who share the same beliefs and would be able to conduct the wedding to the high standards that we expect.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Preferably a Humanists UK one!

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure I have strong views on this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

2

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I think that there should be a possibility for people to contact separately with issues or questions. A helpline perhaps.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I whole-heartedly believe that there should be a list of non-religious belief organisations for the purpose of officiating at weddings. It is incredibly important; there are all sorts of commercial enterprises in the US that allow people to 'become ordained' for a set price.

As a non-religious person with strong beliefs in humanity, working towards the common good, equal rights, I am proud to call myself a humanist, and



provide humanist, meaningful, memorable wedding ceremonies that can bring families and friends together to celebrate the love and commitment of the couple.

Humanists UK should be top of the list, in my humble opinion!

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think that any organisation that promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality should be excluded.

Of course, I think that exclusion of any officiant or organisation should have a very clear process.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think that when it comes to a very reputable organisation, then it is possible to nominate officiants by office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would be better to go through a reputable organisation, who can assure quality and standards

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on what kind of religious content. Sometimes the religious aspect might be more cultural than religious. Clearly, if a deity is mentioned, then that is religious.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No limitations!

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would cause confusion if non-religious belief ceremonies were to take place in religious venues, and vice versa!

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very important.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think the organisation can address the steps necessary, but yes, it is really important that venues that frequently host weddings work with officiants to ensure that there are standards, and consideration of accessibility for all etc

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Sailing boats, ferries, catamarans.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I hope so! I love being on the ocean and would love to conduct weddings on the high seas.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

As a humanist, I believe in compassion and I often lower my modest fees for those in need, or to help couples.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes, the current law prevents couples from getting married.  
In fact, I won't get married until I can have a humanist wedding with legal recognition.  
Many couples would like to get married outdoors, and in a meaningful, non-religious ceremony.

Your provisional proposals would definitely result in an increase in couples becoming legally married. Looking at Scotland, the number of weddings soared after legal recognition was given to humanist marriage and they now outnumber Church of Scotland weddings as a preferred choice. Also, the current situation prohibits many couples from getting married in a secular service due to the costly nature of venues, and/or the excessive demand for dates at registry offices.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. many of my couples have lamented that they have been unable to book the registry office for the same day or even same week as their humanist wedding. also, the costs vary considerably and really unfairly depending on the borough of the registry office.
2. the costs are extremely high, especially for Saturdays over the summertime
3. the costs of marrying in reg places of worship is far lower than the costs of marrying in a secular ceremony in an approved venue so it therefore is unfair and unequal. I've known people to choose a church wedding simply for the lower cost!
4. registry officers charge a lot of money to go to a location, and often limit their time. whereas as a humanist celebrant, I don't charge anything extra for travel, and I only have one wedding in day, which allows flexibility for the couple to alter the time to adjust to the sunshine, or unforeseen challenges (such as traffic) on the day itself.
5. it seems totally UNFAIR and UNEQUAL that couples who are non-religious (including those who identify as humanists) who want a humanist wedding have to pay twice as much as those who want a religious wedding. it also does not support people who have to consider differing religious roots on both sides of the family.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. this will relieve the excessive pressure and increase availability; following this pandemic, the timing of this scheme could not be better (if it can be swiftly actioned)
2. this will enormously help couples to choose to commit and become legally married as the economy tightens
3. this again will halve the costs for couples who choose a humanist wedding.; so it is very much encouraged

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This would help venues to host more weddings, and allow for more weddings on varying days, throughout the year, which in turn would help with staffing, suppliers and so on.  
The wedding industry is huge and, I hope, that in the aftermath of this pandemic, that many couple will choose to become legally married, and celebrate with their family and friends.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law means that local authorities are all acting differently and the costs vary.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYA-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-08 11:46:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am currently engaged and seeking to get married in an Anglican Church ceremony.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our wedding was originally scheduled for July 2020, but had to be rescheduled to March 2021 due to the pandemic. This rescheduled date is now in question due to restrictions on guest numbers and as such, we have decided to proceed with a simple legal marriage ceremony in January 2021 and will follow with a full 'wedding' when restrictions allow. It has been exceedingly frustrating how the rules keep on changing and has caused significant anxiety

and stress as everything is so uncertain. Even now, we are not sure if we will be able to get married in January 2021 as there is no consistency to the rules. It is utterly ridiculous around the rules for whether you are allowed to have a reception and the restrictions on numbers of guests - you could hire out an entire restaurant for 50 people (at separate tables) which is permitted, but can't have a 'reception' for 50 people sitting at tables eating food. What is the difference? With the second lockdown, our banns are now not able to be read (due to the closure of the Church) which means we have to explore yet another alternative route and obtain a Common Licence. I firmly believe that the rules on weddings should not keep changing - they should remain the same, regardless of what Tier you are in and be allowed to go ahead as the Government is messing with people's lives. It is shameful.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no purpose in this.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible.

##### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming the application can be processed in time, why should they have to wait any longer?

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes. This is a good suggestion based on not only the current situation, but the progression of technology and will provide much greater flexibility.

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

##### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who will check a notice board? May as well not bother if it isn't accessible online.

##### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a good length of time, but there should be an option to extend it due to unforeseen circumstances.

##### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible.

##### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, sensible.

Please share your views below:

Yes, if agreed by all parties in advance.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why the country of publication should matter when all are part of the UK.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it seems silly having to do it twice - we are in this position where our marrying church is different to our local church. We have no affiliation to our local church so it is very much an administrative tick-box which serves no purpose.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes
2. This seems unnecessary - some kind of meeting is sensible, but I think this could be done together or remotely via video link.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think it is important both do this and bear the responsibility - therefore, one member of the couple cannot be held to account if the other declares falsely.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

For simplicity, there should be just one rule for preliminaries, regardless of whether the ceremony will be civil or Anglican.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, I don't see the purpose of any such limitations, provided the officiant and couples are in agreement.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as all parties are in agreement and authorise it, then this shouldn't be prohibited by law. For example, if a church is happy to allow a non-religious ceremony to take place, then this should be allowed; however, permission must be sought.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to include any other relevant party e.g. the owner of the land/building, cruise ship Captain

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is needed for greater flexibility and to keep with the times. This will also help to fit around honeymoon plans and be a less stressful way of registering the marriage.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDCF-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-08 14:37:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Boundary Co. Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

-

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a legal marriage, married in church of England

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We have a beautiful old oak barn on site which we have used for blessings, and clients would love to use the space for legally binding ceremonies. The majority of our clients have shown huge interest in being able to hold their legal ceremony and the reception at the same location. Of course without the license which is currently required by law we are unable to have these legally binding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a result of the national lockdowns and local restrictions put into place by the government, we have able to operate as a business. This has halted our intention of applying for a wedding licence, which we believe if we were legally allowed to hold ceremonies we would currently still be able to operate.

Of course the local council who are the licensing authority have been hugely impacted by COVID-19, which is one of the main reasons we as a business have not submitted our application.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This existing restriction only has a negative effect on our type of business by restricting peoples choice of where they wish to get married. With the modern world moving at the pace it does, it seems ludicrous to still enforce this restriction.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This proposition seems far more sensible considering how much the world has evolved.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that having completed the in person interview, you are at liberty to get married whenever you like. We do not see what benefit is derived from enforcing a delay. Once again it seems like an outdated regulation

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

We believe interviews should always be held in person, but as previously answered above the rest of the process we believe should have no time restriction and be able to be completed remotely.

Remote interviews may place added undue and unnecessary pressures on the interviewer to make assessments of validity.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

We feel it should be possible to provide notice irrespective of location, given the means of communication now available to everyone.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the majority of the world being online it makes far more sense to now provide these notices online

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with the proposal, especially given the uncertainty this year has brought upon us, and continues to do so

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree the officiate should be named to ensure validity of the ceremony. We feel one substitute should be permitted.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems to be pragmatic approach

Please share your views below:

We feel that is reasonable however perhaps the word 'unavoidable' requires some clarity

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We feel there should be one process in England and Wales regarding the notification of a wedding

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems a very outdated rule given the level of modernisation, it should all be online

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, we feel they should published online as any other notice should be

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No, we feel there should be one formal approach to wedding notices covering the whole of England and Wales, regardless of where the wedding is held. The banns/notices should be published online

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

We agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Once again we think one formal approach to standardise and simplify the outdated process

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes we feel this would maintain the validity of the ceremony whilst standardising the process

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However we feel those officiating at a Church/religious wedding should comply with the same regulations as that of a officiate for civil ceremonies

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Everyone who wishes to be an officiate for weddings, whether civil or religious should be subject to the same regulations

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

they should be able to nominate but they would still need to registered/regulated the same way as any other officiate

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

aslong as its the same process to become an officiate

Please share your views below:

No distinction should be made, it should be one process to cover and officially recognise a marriage

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

they can be nominated but must follow the same criteria to become an officiant

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

please see previous responses

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

please see previous response

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should be responsible and the only body able to grant that status

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We believe there should be a limit but not a standard fee

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants of any type need to have the status granted to them by the General Register Office

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it is the responsibility of the General Register Office

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But applies to all officiants, religious or otherwise

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Part 1 - Agreed

Part 2 - We feel that there should be a universal process and the method of expressing consent needs to be approved/recognised by the General Register Office

Part 3 - We feel that verbal consent should be provided wherever possible and there should be an approved list of circumstances where verbal consent is not required.

Part 4 - Agreed

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed but there should be an element of standard process/declarations that should be contained in all ceremonies.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We feel that the core requirements must be contained in the ceremony regardless of whether it is civil or religious .

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

We feel the responsibility rests with the officiant to determine the suitability of the venue/location. Bearing in mind the solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

We feel the location of the ceremony is down to the wedding party as long as the officiant deems it suitable

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

we agree as this will assist the officiant in ensuring the appropriateness of the location, furthermore any amendments to the guidance can centrally maintained and readily available to officiants

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

From our perspective of running a venue used for weddings we could market or state that our site has been pre approved for weddings and would help prospective clients to plan and make decisions

Please share your views below:

General register office should be responsible for pre approvals. Once the venue has been used once for a ceremony it would be deemed suitable and would gain pre approved status for future ceremonies. Responsibility to ensure this status is maintained is on future officiants when arranging a ceremony

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with point 1 and 2, however point 3 should have been assessed and checked at the interview stage

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However we would say that in point 3 and 4 it should state both or either of the party, as per point 1

No

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with point 1 and 2. We disagree with point 3, documents should be signed before or during the ceremony

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We feel the officiants carry a lot of responsibility to uphold the legality of the ceremony therefore any impersonation of an officiant should be classed as a serious offence with penalties set accordingly, a large deterrent

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No comment

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But would need clarity as to what constitutes an emergency

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

We feel it should be possible in principle however it raises a lot of issues and places a lot of additional responsibility, on the officiant when assessing the suitability of the location

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant needs to be named so the wedding maintains its legality, by having the pre approved officiant, recognised by the general registry office

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Unknown

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding is not formally and legally recognised until the schedule has been completed and returned to the authorities

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be the same as any other parties would pay

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We feel the limitation on where legal ceremonies can be held does impact the decisions surrounding planning a wedding .

We feel the provisional proposal would lead to an increase in legally recognised marriages

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The fees associated with a wedding are in general a small percentage of the overall cost of a wedding, and therefore have little bearing on the decision to legally get married

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost benefit is relatively immaterial to the total cost of a wedding. However the main benefit would be the ability to get married where and when the party actually chooses as opposed to where they are told

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

As a relatively new business the current laws have impacted our business hugely. The requirement for a costly license, obtained from the local council has stunted our business development. We are currently losing in excess of 50% (20-30 weddings per annum) of potential customers due to our inability to offer a licensed venue. The expenditure we would incur to comply with the criteria stipulated by the local council and subjectively applied has deterred us from submitting our application. We have developed a location which has proved extremely popular with potential clients, and has been used for blessings by celebrants with great success.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Given the current impact of the pandemic on our industry, the return to 'normality' is undoubtedly going to increase demand. The proposed scheme would enable more people to get married in more locations helping to ease the inevitable backlog. Our business would thrive if the new scheme was to be passed and we struggle to see any negative effects of a change in the law

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would reduce the local authorities workload, and help generate employment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We only see the impact being positive as it will provide residents with a greater choice

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no views

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Not a significant cost
2. A reduction in cost and certainly increased revenue
3. no view
4. Some set up cost but potential for increased income
- 5.No significant increase in cost

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYW-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-08 15:18:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the interview process has taken place and the interviewer is satisfied in the legality of the marriage, the time between the interview and the ceremony is largely irrelevant.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I would suggest that in-person interviews should be in place for everyone. However, if interviewers are satisfied that an online interview is sufficient to 'get the job done' then I would think this is acceptable.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This seems like a sensible amendment that will make a huge difference to a small proportion of couples.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is, in theory, totally acceptable. However some people may have legitimate concerns about such personal information being openly available on the internet.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be fine. The only issue here is that if an officiant agrees to perform a ceremony and then becomes unavailable due to illness, for example. In this case would the couple need to obtain a new schedule, possibly at short notice?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See my previous comments!

Please share your views below:

If there is a legitimate reason why the chosen officiant was unable to perform the ceremony, and a substitute officiant could still ensure the legality of the ceremony, then this should be fine. (Otherwise a couple would be required to obtain another Schedule, and this seems like a time-consuming bureaucratic exercise!)

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I believe this should be agreed in consultation with individual couples and churches.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like the best way of ensure the legality of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they have the relevant training and knowledge then this is a sensible idea!

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There may need to be some kind of quality assurance to ensure that all people put forward as officiants had the knowledge and skills to perform the role to a legally acceptable standard.

It is important that people from non-religious organisations are also able to act as officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This seems like a sensible suggestion although may bring up some contentious issues!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Again, some quality assurance may be required, but this should be acceptable.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very important!

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps a cap on a fee charged would discourage any individuals from turning this in to a purely money-making venture.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be generous flexibility in this guidance.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There may need to be some centralised oversight to ensure the system is working.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This is difficult as omission from this list may imply that content is not allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a key argument in these changes. This would enable couples and officiants to engage in meaningful ceremonies in a variety of places. It would also lead to a reduction in the (currently very high) costs associated with getting married.

Please share your views below:

As long as officiants are content that the service is legal, and all criteria met, e.g.: witnesses, then the ceremony should be able to take place anywhere.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If all people involved are happy for the venue (religious or otherwise) to be used for that type of service, then this should be allowed to go ahead.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDY1-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-09 19:44:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I had a religious wedding as the only other choice 32y ago was a dingy registry office. I am a humanist so would have preferred other options

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We need to ensure all marriages are consensual I feel this would put some people at risk

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

See above

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Should all be in person to avoid sham or forced marriage

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes any reasonable

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Banns are archaic and I see no reason for them

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think it is unnecessary to have them at all

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to avoid sham marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All checks should be equal

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any wedding

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

2 are unnecessary

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Equality for all

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Humanists

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Definitely

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Probably

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Particularly music which though religious may be enjoyed for its self

Please share your views below:

Music

Consultation Question 46:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be limits

outdoors,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think it is responsible to ensure safe

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local authority

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be longer of under 1i at marriage

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We should have reasonable flexibility

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYS-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-10 13:16:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This can be quite difficult to achieve if the couple or one of them lives abroad as they then have to set up residence with a time lag of 28 days before they can get married. It can also be difficult to prove as most people deal with statements and other documents online

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would be ok as long as the 28 days start after the in person interview as the couple may have submitted incorrect information or not have the right documents

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

14 days would be good to make sure that there are no legal challenges but also to give time to produce correct documents

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No I think it should always be in person so that non-verbal behaviour can be observed more closely and that sham and forced marriages can be detected in a neutral safe environment. For example one of the parties could have coercive family members standing in the room listening to the exchange- how do we provide privacy and protection?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

data protection issue, especially in the age of social media when information can be circulated anywhere on the web. Addresses for instance.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It could be extended in the case of emergencies eg pandemic

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No to both as what if there is a problem on the day and there needs to be a substitute. Also this will cause the registration services lots of work if they have to constantly change details in theory right up to the 11th hour!

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be 2 officiants for safety reasons

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No This would make it different to notices of marriage which have to publicise in the district . They need to be the same. Also not many people attend church and some are virtually hardly used so no-one would see them.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to make sure its not a sham/forced marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes in line with civil weddings

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is unsafe as there are lots of difficulties- sickness, accidents, colleagues to confer with in case of problems. Lack of authority. Too much responsibility for one person

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



not sure

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is taking the safeguarding of lawful processes out of government control and giving it to private individuals who may not be suited for the job. Quality and legal aspects would be affected

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registration service as it stands is already a non-religious belief organisation monitored and governed by government , law and legislation to make sure everything is done legally.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be a cult. There is also already provision to hold some type of ceremony that fit these ideas after the legal civil marriage/ Civil Partnership such as renewals of vows or 'blessings' within the framework of the particular organisation/religion

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this goes ahead then there needs to be some sort of monitoring and regulation by GRO

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

as question 28

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could be biased and unregulated

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a massive piece of work for the Registrar General as at the moment this is all done 'locally' through interviews, training and development at local level.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If weddings are conducted privately by those in business this will not be a cheaper option for couples as the officiants will need to make a profit. You can currently get married for £46

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limit on fees as with civil weddings now otherwise the prices will rise for the customer as the officiant is in effect- a business and has profits to make

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be corruptive as personal friendships, hierarchy in an organisation may make it difficult to withdraw authorisation

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should still be dealt with by local government authorities

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reviews on quality and development should be made with options to withdraw if standards are not followed

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

as above question 40

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

consent and impediments should be part of the ceremony so they are publicly declared.  
some religions or organisations may circumvent consent by getting an unwilling person to sign a piece of paper or get others to sign for them. this could be for a sham or forced marriage

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be legal declarations but with enhancements for additional choice decided between the parties

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

some content such as readings and music should be allowed but not the actual wording of a religious ceremony

Please share your views below:

readings and music

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends which is legal should come first

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People need to be able to witness and object

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What about health and safety regulations, risk assessments who will determine if somewhere is safe for the couple, guests and officiants and also maintain the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony and controlling the content within legal frameworks

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

What about health and safety regulations, risk assessments who will determine if somewhere is safe for the couple, guests and officiants and also maintain the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony and controlling the content within legal frameworks.  
in the air for instance might be possible on a plane but not skydiving!  
How do you risk assess someone's home and more importantly challenge when things are not right/go wrong?  
Outdoors should be allowed if the places are risk assessed eg parks, gardens, beaches, fields.  
Rivers would be difficult as you need a boat big enough for all parties and need to be safe

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be kept separate

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be guidance on this as the officiant may be swayed into approving somewhere that is unsafe

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But is this subjective by each individual so needs to be monitored and guidance provided

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but what if officiants disagree or are pressured into agreeing something unacceptable

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

local authorities and registration services already risk assess and issue licences to approved premises . I think this should be modified to include wider settings but in the same way

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is signed on the day of the wedding to say that is accurate- anything added after that has not been witnessed or signed to say it is correct so this could cause problems with future certificates and legal challenges such as pensions, inheritance etc

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

mistakes can be put right but there have to be witnesses otherwise who would stand up in a court of law if the ceremony is challenged and if not signed how do we know it took place or followed all the legal requirements

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No I think the current procedures are easy and quick

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Rg's licence allows people to get married quickly- sometimes the same day so how can there be one form of schedule as we can't have everyone being able to get married quickly unless they have different time limits. Also the RG's give an extra safeguard to make sure correct procedures are being followed which is very important if someone is dying.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. ok to extend validity

2. we do this partly at the moment with questioning being done remotely but then in person straight after to check, sign and produce documents. How would we be satisfied that the documents if scanned in are ok and that the couple are not being coerced or groomed by someone else in the room?

3/4 totally against remote weddings as where would they be held? who would attend? would safety measure be followed.? How would pre ceremony interviews to determine consent be given? Signing of the schedule is important so we know the couple, witnesses and officiants know that a proper legal ceremony has been conducted. Signing remotely could lead to errors and omissions that could impact on the legality of the proceedings and the extra copy might be lost or used for fraud.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

canal boats, river cruises, ferries and private yachts as long as all preliminaries and risk assessments are followed

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1.No there are still lots of people getting married and most are happy to go through the legal preliminaries to make sure that they are legally married in the end

2. I think it could possibly make it easier for couples who aren't very serious about getting married but just want to have a party in a field or on a ship or in another location because they can

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Register Offices are cheap to get married in and therefore offer a greater choice for most people. The standard of venue and availability obviously varies, but if the fee to a celebrant is more than the register office then depending on the couples wishes as to venue. the cheaper option will always be a register office.

The biggest cost at approved premise is the reception and room hire and this is down to customer choice. The fees for the registrars to attend are very low in comparison considering the responsibility and legal procedures they have to follow.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think the only thing to do would be to make it possible for couples to marry outdoors but in current approved premises or those locations that have been approved and risk assessed as safe and suitable for an outdoor ceremony

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Availability can sometimes be an issue as lots of people want to get married at the same time of day but most authorities have lots of ceremony officers approved by the local authority who are available on an ad hoc basis. The problem is not enough registers, but this will not be a problem if we go to schedules as we can send out more people to cover weddings (though this is self regulated anyway by the availability of venues on any particular day)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think it would be unwise and unsafe to give permission to host weddings without pre-government approval and safety controls and who would be responsible if someone was injured, legalities not followed etc?

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Registration Officers and ceremony officers might lose their jobs if anyone can apply to be an officiant. Revenue related to marriages would diminish and so would cost local authorities so wider redundancies may follow due to cutbacks.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Certificates of no impediment are usually required to marry abroad which the country that they are getting married in request so some other way would need to be devised if this is abolished to prove to other countries that the couple are free to marry . Why change the process?

Residency is usually the issue which I agree should be unnecessary in current way, though we still need a method of immigration control for those coming in from abroad to marry here

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Certificates of no impediment are usually required to marry abroad which the country that they are getting married in request so some other way would need to be devised if this is abolished to prove to other countries that the couple are free to marry . Why change the process?  
Residency is usually the issue which I agree should be unnecessary in current way, though we still need a method of immigration control for those coming in from abroad to marry here

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYR-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-10 14:48:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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Email:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not worried about confidentiality

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No legal barriers - married in C of E Church

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I work as a Superintendent Registrar at the register office and have attended quite a lot of weddings during the COVID-19 pandemic and have found that, despite the reduced number of guests, that the couples have had lovely wedding ceremonies and actually found them to be quite special and intimate with just close family and friends. Many other weddings have been postponed as the day would not have been as the couples wanted as they envisage having lots of family and friends to celebrate with.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Couples who live abroad and wish to be married with their family and friends in this country have to come home to reside for the seven days and nights and then usually do not have time to stay here for the 28 clear days until they can marry so have to return home and then come back for the wedding causing unnecessary expense to themselves.

Couples who wish to be married in a non-conformist church have to either reside in the district they wish to marry in or be regular worshippers at the church and this seems unfair as couples being married in C of E churches can marry anywhere they have ties or family.

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree in principle but we find that it can take a lot of questioning with some people to extract the correct information.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days seems a short period for anyone to find out about the proposed marriage if they have an objection.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Still prefer the idea of face to face interviews.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The likelihood of anyone seeing a notice on the notice board in a district are very limited and online but with limited information on would seem to be a better option.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One year seems to be a good time frame.

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be difficult to administrate I would have thought.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer above - who would know if the officiant was qualified.

Please share your views below:

I do not really understand what other circumstances.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not know a lot about banns only civil marriages so do not feel qualified to answer this.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure but I think I agree

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think that these should also be online if civil marriage notices were to be online.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think they should have the power to check documentary evidence and that this should be done as a matter of course. I think they should have the right to meet the couple beforehand but not necessarily separately.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I think Anglican weddings should fall in line with other couples giving notice of marriage for civil ceremonies and ceremonies at non-conformist churches and give notice separately.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It would be easier if all marriages were preceded by civil preliminaries and no doubt Anglican vicars would find that this made life easier for them.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do think that that registration officers should continue as we do now. Who would actually regulate the system if we had other celebrants performing ceremonies as I think that they would need to be checked on by some type of body.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this would be acceptable but my only concern is that of safety.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do agree in principle that they should be able to officiate at any venue instead of just in church and would prefer this to any other celebrants being able to officiate.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think all non-conformist churches and the Church of England should work under the same rules.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They would need to be defined and I think there should only be so many different organisations allowed to act as celebrants otherwise this could open up all sorts of organisations that may have some very strange beliefs.

Please share your views below:

I only really know of humanist type weddings as an alternative to civil or church.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Think there needs to be some type of organisation that has a certain amount of numbers rather than just anyone with a religious belief being able to officiate.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I think they should make it the same for religious and non-religious organisations but definitely not for organisations that have anything to do with being unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality. I think marriages whether performed by a vicar, minister, registration officer or celebrant should be dignified and seemly as they are at the moment and not go too far in allowing anyone to marry couples with any type of ceremony that would offend anyone.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think they should be able to nominate officiants by office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems the sensible place to have a list.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense to have all officiants and religious and registration officers administrated by the same place.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There definitely needs to be a body who will oversee this and perform regular checks.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no doubt that a lot of people will see this as a business venture.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a set fee and I feel that the government should consult with local authorities before setting a fee and have all the fees at a similar price.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should definitely not be allowed to be part of any religious body or registration officer and should be totally independent.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No other option.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any celebrants must work according to guidance issued and also be regulated and checked on.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above - work should be monitored by someone.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would be interested to know how GRO would employ to regulate this.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure as to how to answer as I do not quite understand the question but if it means that they are authorised forever and not a certain time period then I agree as it would be expensive and difficult to administrate if they had to be re-registered every couple of years although this would be a source of income for GRO.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This must happen.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be formed at the point of signing the declaration.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it would be easier for the officiants to have a fairly standard script and this could be enhanced by the parties if they wished.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These weddings have taken place for many years and I think they should be able to impose their own requirements.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would make the lives of registration staff a lot easier than trying to police what is constituted as religious but I do not think we should go as far as prayers/singing of religious songs

Please share your views below:

I think that singing by choirs (religious music) should be allowed likewise religious music to be played and that if anyone wishes to add a religious reading then that should be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If religious content will be allowed in ceremonies whether by registration staff, celebrants or others then it will not be necessary.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Am unsure on this - what if someone wishes to object.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think this would be a good idea at all as weddings should be seemly and dignified as mentioned previously and this would not be the case if weddings were allowed anywhere. Who would sort out the health and safety for any celebrant etc., attending.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I feel that outdoors is fine as long as health and safety checked but private homes could present health and safety problems and I do not feel it is appropriate in the air (I think you must mean hot air balloons etc.,).

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think health and safety should dictate whether marriage take place in these locations.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that non -religious marriages should take place away from a place of worship and that non-religious weddings should not take place in church as it seems confusing to all concerned.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that if other persons start to officiate at weddings then it should definitely not be up to them to decide where is suitable as couples can be quite demanding with regard to weddings and may either offer money or another incentive to 'persuade' an officiant that the venue should be approved. This should be done by a separate body taking health and safety into account.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No comment to make - I do not think officiants should be making that decision.



No

Please expand on your answer:

I think some officiants would go ahead and have a wedding even if the location was not safe and dignified. I think the phrase 'free for all' comes to mind.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I still think another body (such as local authorities do now) should judge the suitability and approval for premises.

Please share your views below:

As above - local authority or similar.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think the place of marriage should be there on the document before the ceremony but that the date and parents details could be added later - the same as a CP schedule.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever the couple wish

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that electronic registration is a definite must.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses should be present

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the above and have no further comment

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why would they not cohabit after the celebration of the marriage (unless for religious reasons). What would be the point of marrying if a couple do not wish to live together at any point in the relationship. Could this not be considered to be a marriage of convenience whether that be financial or other gain to be made.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree - if they have not been through a form of marriage and do not believe themselves to be married then the presumption should not be made.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would have thought that three years would have been sufficient but I have had no dealings with this at all so do not feel qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants will have to be closely monitored and their organisation responsible for them.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I think that GRO deal with these situations very well and although I have attended death bed weddings I have not attended housebound, prison or hospital. I think that the above are well covered and do not need any change.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think we should continue as at present and take the details from the one party who is not terminally ill as this makes things considerably easier for them and I find that it gives us an opportunity to meet that person and be able to be made aware of the situation we are going to face when attending the marriage.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as this still worked in the same way as RG's licence - GRO give us the permission at the moment but I think this could work with registration officers issuing said paperwork as we would have a set of rules to work to, just as GRO do at the moment.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think three months is adequate - if they are happy to wait for longer than this then could go down the normal route and wait for the appropriate number of days the same as everyone else.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree and have no further comment.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think validity of schedules etc should be extended.

Although I do not like the idea of 'remote anything' to do with weddings, I do feel that there may be some merit in this if normal weddings were to be stopped as in the coronavirus situation at the moment. How far it would be extended would be interesting - could a couple be in different countries to each other etc.,

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Has to be fair to all.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think I agree but who would actually police this - I think it could be open to being used incorrectly.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No problem with this.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I think that this should not be allowed as the size of the vessel comes into consideration and also problems on health and safety. I think leave it to the cruise ships.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the place is given I do not see the need for the name of the officiant as long as they are registered with some governing body.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it should be a member of the ship whether the Captain or any other member as above who have been authorised by GRO.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree - no further comment.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree - no further comment.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I think they should have the choice of religious/non-religious.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be a time limit otherwise paperwork will be forgotten about /lost etc., and could become a big administrative problem.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Have a national banding so all the same. At the moment the local authority pays.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with number 2 - I feel our present system fits the bill perfectly.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I totally agree.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree - no further comment except that if we have been asked to ensure location is safe then the couple should pay presuming it is the couple's request. I feel the registration officer should be able to refer to a health and safety consultant as what would happen if an accident were to occur and one of the guests injured/killed - would the local authority be responsible? Maybe an independent health and safety assessment needed.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This has to be governed by a specific body and the easiest is the local authority.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is what happened at the moment.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree - no further comment.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the fee should be less than attending at a venue away from the register office if the person is housebound or detained as they have no choice but to marry in that place whereas other couples choose their location. I think the fee should cover the hourly rate and travel so that it does not impact on local authorities although these ceremonies are not common in our district.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

I think we should continue as at present and charge a nominal amount for the notice of marriage and waive the fee for the ceremony.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that if GRO charges a fee then they should be the ones to keep a check on that officiant and make sure they are abiding by the rules.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that the current law regarding marriage are quite straightforward and work well for most couples. I think that those living abroad would benefit from new rules allowing them to give notice and marry sooner than 28 days. I do not think the new proposals would encourage people to marry particularly unless, for instance, you could legally marry in a hot air balloon, on a yacht or any other place the couple thought would be 'different'.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think the current costs seem acceptable to couples . I have had no complaints about the fees for conducting a legal then non-legal ceremony (in the garden of a hotel etc.,)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I cannot really see as to how much of a saving will be made and I do not think it of great importance to couples as we at the register office do not have complaints about the prices either for Register office weddings or at approved venues as anything wedding related costs a fortune and our couples are quite happy to pay our fees.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think that the impact on registration staff will be huge and many job losses will result if other people are allowed to officiate at weddings and the loss of income to the local authority will be very high

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I cannot see any benefits for existing registration officers only for any other type of officiant if they are allowed to officiate at marriage venues.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think it will lead to a loss of jobs and income from the marriage ceremonies and the registration service will have a lot of duties taken away in terms of appointments for notice of marriage , attendance at marriage ceremonies.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I cannot think of any benefits unless the local authority are involved in the changes regarding who can officiate and weddings and maybe have some form of control over them which can be charged for, likewise the actual places that people wish to be married will need to be inspected so maybe the local authority could take that on at a price.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think it could make it better for the regulations to be relaxed on whereabouts you can be married and also having to give notice in person if you live abroad and then are able to do this by video link.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Hopefully it will make life a little easier for all concerned but we need to proceed with caution and make sure the legislation is exactly what is required.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not know a deal about this so not able to comment,

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above, I do not know a great deal about this so not able to comment.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I think there will be cost to local authorities in lost income, businesses may be made out of the new proposals and no doubt we will see the growth of 'wedding celebrant' companies who employ a lot of people to attend marriages. I think the Clergy may benefit as more people may want a religious ceremony therefore more money to the clergy. I don not think there will be any potential savings for the couples but the new regulations may make life a little easier for them,.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD1X-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-10 16:19:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Dr. Zainab Naqvi

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

De Montfort University, Leicester, UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Participants in my research study on women's attitudes and experiences concerning polygamous marriages in the UK who identified as adherents of Islam expressed that they did not consider themselves truly married unless they had undergone the Muslim Nikah ceremony even if they had participated in a legally recognised civil ceremony.

It is possible that the difference in structure of the Nikah to civil register ceremonies along with the way that consent was expressed led to this feeling of not being married and the proposed structure which emphasises consent could lead to a greater affinity with mainstream legal recognition.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal would go some way to addressing the practical concerns of women in the Muslim community as indicated by my study concerning the validity of marriage and its recognition for them in religious terms.

Participants expressed the importance of being recognised as married in religious terms and how the civil register marriage does not meet their needs in this sense.

By giving minoritised religious and cultural communities this greater level of flexibility and autonomy over the form and ceremony, it would promote a sense of recognition which stretched beyond mainstream legal recognition.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would support the spiritual needs of religious communities and remove the practical need of undergoing two separate ceremonies in order to obtain legal and religious validity.

It would also provide participants with the choice of the type of ceremony they wish to have and its substance.

For example, a Muslim Nikah ceremony does not tend to have an exchange of verbal vows but a couple may wish to include these in their ceremony.

This proposed arrangement would facilitate this without the need for two separate ceremonies.

Similarly for a couple where the participants come from different religious backgrounds, this approach may give them the opportunity to combine their preferred contents from their traditional community religious ceremonies into one ceremony.

Please share your views below:

For the Muslim community, the acceptance of the terms of the marriage agreement is a key element of the Nikah ceremony. The opportunity to say they accept these terms in front of witnesses would be helpful.

Similarly, having relevant prayers and supplications allowed during the ceremony may be desirable to reflect the act of worship that marriage is viewed as in Islam.

Finally, the declaration of the gift made to the bride by the groom for all to hear would be helpful - not only for the religious aspects but also as a way of uplifting women's rights by ensuring that they are aware of this right and setting standards for how communities should determine the appropriate

norms around the gift for each generation.

#### Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In my empirical study of women's experiences and attitudes concerning polygamous marriages in the UK, a trend emerged that Muslim women did not see themselves as married until they had undergone the religious Nikah ceremony.

They did not see themselves as married by just undergoing the civil wedding ceremony - repealing this provision would support the practical needs and experiences of women so that they can seek legal recognition on their own terms in a way which is meaningful for them. This would involve the centring of religious recognition which is what many of them do anyway. Thus, repealing this provision would merely reflect the behaviour of these women.

#### Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 7: Location

#### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Muslim Nikah ceremonies can already take place anywhere according to the religious requirements.

For that reason, they do take place in private residences for example.

For a couple that wishes to have a Nikah ceremony only, it would be helpful if they could have legal recognition included in this.

Please share your views below:

As long as the requirements are clear and the venue is practically able to meet the needs for a ceremony, the law should permit weddings in all venues.

#### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be unlikely that a religious venue would be able to meet the needs of a non-religious belief wedding because of the spiritual significance of the religious venue.

The community which worships there would be worried about the wider implications of opening up their sacred space to non-religious belief ceremonies.

#### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as this guidance is produced in consultation with minoritised religious communities and other concerned parties.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would facilitate the lived experiences of communities like the Muslim community where cohabitation does not necessarily commence straight after the Islamic Nikah ceremony.

In addition, it would target the issues that have arisen with religious-only marriages leading to their previous characterisation as non-marriages because of a failure to comply with current formalities for a valid ceremony.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would be helpful to take into consideration whether this factor of longstanding cohabitation is useful for determining the validity of a marriage that was conducted overseas before abolishing this presumption.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is particularly helpful for promoting accountability in the marriage officiating process.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

At present, the Muslim community in most cases engages in two separate marriage ceremonies to fulfil religious and legal requirements.

This is discouraging for couples.

This separation creates issues for couples in terms of practical obstacles such as the added expense of a civil ceremony. It de incentivises them seeking legal recognition.

In addition, whilst there is the opportunity for couples to be more autonomous and seek legal recognition if they wish, the opposite is also true that it can lead to individuals, particularly women from these communities being vulnerable. This is particularly true when they have a precarious immigration status and are in the UK on a fiance visa.

In my study concerning women's attitudes and experiences around polygamous marriages, two relevant themes arose in the data.

First, that there were women who were religious-only marriages due to various circumstances that were dissatisfied with their lack of legal recognition because they felt invisibilised and blocked from being publicly recognised as married.

The second theme related to opportunity for abuse whereby women enter the UK on fiance visas, undergo the religious-only ceremony and then are denied legal recognition by their husband. This is held over them with the threat that they will never have the legal ceremony and may be removed from the UK at any time if they do not meet the demands of their husband. As they are not legally recognised spouses, this situation places them in an extremely precarious position.

The provisional proposals may go some way to mitigating these issues although it is important for there to be a level of choice for participants to marriages. Another theme that arose in my study was the freedom and autonomy that women enjoyed when they rejected legal recognition as it also meant that they could protect their assets and not necessarily have to undergo lengthy divorce processes should they wish to leave their marriages. It is important for these factors to be balanced when shaping the new legislative approach.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDA8-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-11 12:15:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

The Revd. [REDACTED] (Rector [REDACTED])

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have conducted three C of E weddings during the pandemic:

- a. an emergency wedding where the bride's father was terminally ill. This took place at the bride's family home and was attended by a very small number of people.
- b. a wedding in church attended by 30 people
- c. a wedding in church attended by 15 people

All have been extremely good occasions, tinged with sadness for different reasons, but all fitting and intimate celebrations of the marriage of two people.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I would have thought that a period of one month was not unreasonable.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

So many of our conversations in the pandemic have been remote ie via Zoom or similar.

This has been a very new but highly efficient system.

Nevertheless, some in-person contact at some point in the process is vital. This is the case from a pastoral point of view (ie we get to know the person taking our wedding) or in the case of query or concern about legalities.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This would make sense.

The ancient practice of reading banns, where everyone in the village would know the parties concerned, is outdated.

Reading banns in parishes, other than the one where the ceremony is to take place, is largely meaningless ceremonial.

Reading banns in the parish church where the wedding will take place allows some (albeit only three weeks) meaningful contact between the couple and the congregation, which is pastorally helpful and gives the couple some sense (albeit brief) of belonging.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1: Yes

2: Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure this is necessary, but it might be helpful. Doing things together in the preparation for a wedding is generally a good thing.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not sure what this list would look like.

Anyone can enter into a civil marriage. Is this not sufficient?

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure that 20 is a large enough number.

Anyone can enter into a civil marriage. Is this not sufficient? If a couple involved with a group as described wished to follow this with an informal "celebration of marriage" ceremony (ie not a marriage itself) would that not be acceptable?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Not sure what kind of organisation you have in mind, but in principle, yes: this would make sense.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This sounds sensible.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what qualifications/training/gifts/skills are imagined here. Could anyone set themselves up as an officiant? Being part of an overarching organisation (C of E or other) offers both a protection and an accountability; and also some measure of quality control/evidence of competence.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem to be helpful, beneficial and just plain good sense, that a national range of fees might be established, published and adhered to. "Privatising" the wedding business would/could/might lead to all kinds of malpractice and inconsistency.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is real merit in setting a time limit for authorisations (3yrs/5yrs).  
This can then lead to appraisal, review and re-authorisation.  
It can also take in account the possibility of in-service training and professional development.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but ...

It is important for C of E marriage services to follow the liturgy as set out in the BCP or Common Worship. Couples cannot just create or invent vows or other forms of words to replace what is required. However, there can be scope for additional material which makes the service more personal in which

the couple can have a say.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is just confusing and unhelpful.

Couples have chosen a non-religious/non-church option. This should be reflected in the shape and content of the ceremony offered. Otherwise, they are having their cake and eating it!

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this means the prohibiting of a second wedding then yes.

But if this means to do away with the Service of Prayer and Dedication after Civil Marriage, then no.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what I think about this. Is a wedding an entirely private function?

I have never had a problem with "trouble makers" turning up unannounced.

However, I have always welcomed parishioners (who wish to see the couple married but who have not been formally invited) "to sit at the back".

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but ... in a C of E context, this should be anywhere in the parish (ie open-air/home/garden/other public building)

Is there a question about some ideas for place which might compromise the dignity of the ceremony/occasion? Not sure I can think of one, but couples are increasingly imaginative!

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Does "in the air" mean in an aircraft, helicopter or balloon? If so, fine.

Does it mean in free-fall wearing a parachute or similar? If so, no.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

For the C of E, this should be the diocese in which the venue is set.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I imagine this would be voidable - but perfectly OK if errors were rectified retrospectively and in a timely manner?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Having recently conducted an emergency wedding by Archbishop's Special Licence, due to the bride's father's terminal illness, I can only report that the personnel involved at the Registry were extremely helpful and that the process was very straightforward indeed.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure I fully understand this question. Does it mean that a wedding could take place "virtually"? ie on Zoom or similar?  
During this pandemic, although hugely unsatisfactory, I have dealt with couples who have either had much smaller weddings than originally intended, or who have postponed until next year. Does the question envisage an alternative to these?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In my recent experience, a letter from a medical professional was extremely helpful.  
Sadly, people will sometimes say all sorts of things to get what they want.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not sure - a possible case might be made for a Navy ship or similar, perhaps?

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think, as with all other marriages, the name of the officiant is critically important.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but see above re independent officiants.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea!

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have no evidence for it, but my sense is that increasing the scope of options for a C of E within the parish boundary would be a good thing.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no hard evidence for this, but my sense is that:  
there is anecdotal evidence that marrying costs a lot of money.

However, it seems to me that the costs (if large they be) are related rather to the "staging of the event" than the cost of any legal preliminaries, registration or the service on the day.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think probably, that any benefits are more related to choice and extra options than concerns about financial savings.  
Of course, there would potentially be a concern for a parish or for the C of E at large, if suddenly people wished to be married elsewhere and church income thereby be affected.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience of 1.  
My understanding of 2 is that things are relatively straightforward at present.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No sure what difference there would be in practice.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

If in the C of E the effect of the proposals is to encourage couples to choose to have a service in a place other than a church building, it may be that the fees would need to attach to the person not the place.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8A-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-11 14:09:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a registrar, it was very difficult as we could not extend the notice expiry dates and people were very angry about having to give notice again. Furthermore, many people had to give notice again as they changed their place of marriage through no fault of their own or were unable to move venue

as it would have meant giving notice again and there wasn't always time.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It doesn't make any sense to have the seven day residency period as it causes many problems when couples give notice, especially if they live abroad and need to return to give notice. Sometimes, they are not able to marry in England and Wales as the residency period is too onerous. Also, if a couple live in separate houses but spent one night at the other's house during the notice period, technically they wouldn't be able to give notice which is ridiculous. Or they don't tell the truth which makes a mockery of the system. Also, if a couple are marrying in a non conformist church and neither live in the district, they have to complete their residency period in the district where they are marrying which is pointless if the church has agreed to marry them. Likewise, the fact that you have to ask if the church is their 'usual place of worship' and add this to the notice is neither live in the marriage district. Couples should be able to give notice at any register office in England and Wales on production of a document such as a driving licence or bank statement.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposed system creates unnecessary duplication - it is important to see the couples to determine whether it is a sham or forced marriage. This will be most important with Brexit approaching and most register offices becoming DROs.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Three days would be too short as it will not allow for foreign divorces to be processed at the GRO and would put too much pressure on register offices. I think it should revert back to two weeks as this gives time for legal objections.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It will be very difficult to ask someone to come into the office if you suspect a sham or forced marriage. This may put people at risk and open up grounds for discrimination. Notices should be face to face as you can study people's behaviour which might not be apparent online. I think it could put registrars in a difficult situation legally.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fact that the date and place of marriage would be much more accessible online would cause many couples worry. Not necessarily because they will be at risk of harm but they could find a disgruntled ex partner trying to cause trouble or cancel arrangements. Currently, if someone wants to be disruptive, they have to make an effort to come to the register office to seek out that information. The current system makes this harder.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This allows couples to give notice when it suits them. The register offices would be inundated with appointments at certain times of year if the notice period were 3 or 6 months. However, this could be extended in extreme circumstances, like a pandemic.

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be too restrictive especially if the celebrant falls sick. This should be left open.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think that all Anglican preliminaries should be conducted at a register office to ensure consistency and accuracy. The preliminaries should be the same regardless of where they marry.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, especially if there is a case of forced or sham marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

For accuracy and consistency.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration Officers have a great deal of knowledge and experience and this is helpful to ensure that ceremonies are conducted properly.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be quite difficult to prove?

Please share your views below:

This would be helpful.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would be hard for registration staff to determine the point at which the ceremony becomes too religious? It would be fine to sing hymns and have religious readings but what if couples want to incorporate wording from the book of common prayer or if a religious person present at the ceremony wants to bless the couple? I think it would need clear guidelines as to what can and can't be done.

Please share your views below:

Hymns and readings only.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You have to consider the health and safety elements of conducting a ceremonies anywhere especially if only one officiant attends. Employees may feel under pressure to conduct ceremonies somewhere that they don't feel is safe or where they feel comfortable. If it is at a private house, it may be daunting to conduct a ceremony if people have been drinking and not under the control of venue staff. They may feel threatened if they decide not to proceed if the couple are intoxicated. A private home can be risk assessed prior to the ceremony but this is not a guarantee that problems may arise on the day ie overcrowding, rowdy behaviour or fire hazards.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Please see my comments above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If locations are publicly accessible then they usually will have been assessed for health and safety standards and fire safety regulations. This would not be the case if couples could marry anywhere.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the officiant is self employed. The council should take responsibility for the approval of locations for registration officers.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

As the councils already have these processes in place they should continue to approve locations. This will make it easier as there will be one point of contact.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the current system where the partner who is not poorly and who gives notice on behalf of both of them works.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the legal notice is given by the partner who is well and the waiting period is waived?

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whether it is 3 months or 12 months it doesn't make much difference as very few survive a week after marrying.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The problem is that everyone would claim that they were at risk of death!

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a reasonable time limit set.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be set by the local authority depending on the needs of that particular register office.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that a small minority will welcome the flexibility of being able to control the ceremony content and location but it is important to remember that most people are traditional when it comes to weddings and do not veer from the established format. Some flexibility to the content and location of ceremonies would be welcome but it is important to uphold the seemly and dignified nature of a wedding otherwise it will make a mockery of the institution. Many people are traditional at heart and will not want to veer too far from the established format. For those couples who don't want a traditional ceremony, you may see an increase.

I'm not sure this will lead to an increase in more people being legally married as in my experience, most people who have problems with the validity of the marriage have married abroad or had a religious ceremony such as a Nikah marriage. If anything, there may be more problems with legalities if the rules are relaxed and people think they've had a legal wedding when they haven't.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can only comment on registration ceremony costs of marrying in a register office or approved premises and these are not prohibitive given the total cost of a wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

You need to consider the impact of marrying in places that are not approved. Couples will need to be mindful that there may be additional costs and implications such as insurance and liability if something goes wrong. There might be less protection under the law? Celebrants currently charge as much for a 'blessing' than for a legal wedding. Register Offices only charge £57.00 for a statutory wedding which is not a high amount on the cost of a wedding.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Regarding the costs of registration officers' attendance at approved premises, this is dependent on the local authority but is not overly expensive given the total cost of a ceremony (the photographer probably costs more). Given that this is the legal part of the ceremony and the register entry and subsequent certificates are created by someone who has been extensively trained, it is not expensive. Any mistakes to the register entry can result in problems with identity or inheritance, for example, and this may increase if you have untrained celebrants conducting legal ceremonies.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. It is important that there is some pre-approval process for venues as there needs to be health and safety checks and fire safety to consider. It would be madness to allow ceremonies to take place in a venue that hasn't been checked.
2. I can't comment on other authorities but in ours, we always manage to accommodate couples in terms of availability - it is only usually last-minute ceremonies where they might struggle to get the time that they want.
3. I don't see why venues can't host weddings officiated by religious officiants although, I am not sure how popular that would be as most people would probably want to marry in a place of worship?
4. I am not sure there will be an increase in business opportunities as it will just shift from one form to another. It also just shouldn't been seen as a business opportunity as this may diminish the solemnity and dignity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law allows local authorities to ensure that ceremonies adhere to all legal requirements and staff are trained to a high standard.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There won't be any potential benefits to local authorities of the proposed scheme. As they will not be able to control who and how conducts ceremonies, they will most likely have to deal with problems post-ceremony such as mistakes on the marriage schedule and problems with validity, as they are usually the first port of call. The revenue that local authorities will be much reduced if the law is relaxed, as there will be an increase in people setting themselves up as celebrants.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDA6-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-12 12:59:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am now divorced, but in 2004 I was married in a Pagan, Druid wedding, but had to have a civil wedding to make it legal which I think was unfair that my wedding was not recognised. For us it was also the expense of having to do this twice as we wished to express ourselves through our belief system to bind us together as a couple.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I was aware that it would not be recognised, which is why I had a registry office ceremony as well.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My husband wished for it to be legally binding and I respected his wishes to make it a legally recognised wedding.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:



Please share your views below:

I am aware that people I know that follow a Pagan Path have struggled to have ceremonies because of the pandemic and not being allowed to gather outside at times and restrictions with legal registry office celebrations on top.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be a notice period prior to marriage, though I do not feel it should have to be in person

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I think an online as this can be done via zoom/skype or other technology means notice should be sufficient

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes I think remote video link i.e. zoom/skype or other such means should be sufficient unless there are concerns, then an in-person meet should happen

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should still be possible

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Recognised bodies such as Pagan Federation, Humanist organisation etc

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this is vital for ensuring the officiant is one of good standing and safeguarding everyone involved

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that there should be limits to what they can charge, being able to cover costs and time only within acceptable limits

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

From a legal point yes, that the wedding must include certain legalities otherwise no

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that there should be a re-registering every few years to enable proof of ability and continued good standing and eligibility

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes there should be guidance as to how they determine a safe location

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

That the officiant should be able to have a list of requirements for that place i.e. access safety etc. This could be a tick box sheet that it meets these requirements

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I believe that there should be an enhanced process to ensure there is no false coercion of someone who is held in mental health hospital or is housebound to safeguard them

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe that if for example Pagans could have a legal wedding in their own spiritual ceremony there would be more legal weddings

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of legal weddings needing to be separate on top of a for example Pagan ceremony does prohibit. Weddings can be costly and there should be a limit to this for those with lower income to be able to afford this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDA3-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-13 13:44:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Equal Civil Partnerships Campaign

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

We would be happy for interviews to be able to take place remotely

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

We agree that it should be possible for notice to be given outside England and Wales.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is of particular interest to the mixed-sex civil partnership community. A large number of mixed-sex civil partnerships, a far greater proportion than same-sex cps or marriages, choose to have the basic no-frills registration in a working office. Although a legal requirement, many register offices offer very little choice in time and availability. We understand that this is because of the fixed price and that register offices make a loss. We hope that reducing the number of registration officers needing to be present would lower the cost to the register office and allow them to make simple registrations more freely available.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This option would allow couples the choice to have a registration in private homes or gardens. At ECP we are particularly enthusiastic about the option to license personal spaces. It would offer a 'middle ground' for mixed-sex civil partnerships who at the moment have the choice of a 'no frills' simple signing in a working office or the decision to use a larger venue. The option of allowing couples to register their relationship in a home or garden offers a simple yet very personal choice which resonates with couples choosing a mixed-sex civil partnership.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our view is that it should be the registrar who is licensed - not the venue - so that there should be no further cost incurred in licensing a venue (eg home) for a registration or marriage.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We are very strongly enthusiastic about this – having campaigned for so long, we are very well aware of the risks – financial and legal – of couples being left without a legal relationship in case of the death of one partner. This is particularly relevant during a time of national emergency such as a pandemic. We do have two concerns

- We would like to ensure that there are robust mechanisms for checking against forced legal relationship or fraudulent registrations
- We would like to ensure that this doesn't discriminate against couples who would not be able to access the technology – through use, knowledge or cost.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDA1-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-16 08:13:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Superintendent Registrar

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Hampshire Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:



No comment

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The refusal to allow Notices, already given, to be extended during lockdown and recovery has caused extensive extra work for local authorities and unnecessary extra costs and inconvenience for thousands of customers, including some couples who are now abroad and cannot return to give notice again.

The refusal to allow Notices to be completed partly online during lockdown and recovery has exposed hundreds of registrars across the country to needless exposure to the virus as a result of extended face to face appointments with couples. As new lockdown restrictions come along and the rules around self isolation continue then suitable resource available to maintain adequate cover to maintain all functions of the RO service (including death registrations) may be affected. It is not appropriate to consider marriage law and required legal processes affecting local resource that is also expected to deliver the full statutory responsibilities of a Registration Officer.

As DROs are not required to give notice in the district where they live they often travel outside of their locality (even though individual area lockdown restrictions may be in place) exposing other Local Authority staff to potential C-19 infection). If local restrictions and lockdowns continue is it difficult to manage weddings (and be C-19 secure) for couples and their guests travelling from areas of the country with higher restrictions (tiers) in place. The available guidance on this is unclear.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the 7-day residency rule is a nonsense as couples can book themselves into a hotel or stay with friends for 7 days to comply with it and this is then sufficient for them to become 'resident' in the area they are staying in. It is an outdated rule and does not reflect the way that people live their lives now

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other – This raises potential issues for Section 24 (s24) reporting on potential sham marriages if the first part is done remotely, (although arguably s24 reports don't necessarily stop many marriages going ahead). This could be resolved by a longer period between the in-person interview and the marriage date for foreign nationals.

Some couples would still want to do the first part in person and there is a danger of this option becoming crowded out if there is pressure to do it remotely. As has been the case with certificate ordering online, now this has become mainstream many local authorities have removed the ability for this to be done in person, and a similar situation could arise if the majority of couples opt to do this online. A clearer proposal to this would be to make the online process mandatory for all couples followed equally by a mandatory f2f interview before authorities are issued

There is a danger that the first part could be done by one of the couple alone answering for both parties which would play into the forced marriage agenda and may mask safeguarding issues. To that end, if this is agreed, the in-person meeting must include safeguarding questions individually from each other so that both parties confirm they wanted to enter into the marriage.

Might be more sensible to take a step further and utilise the Verify.Gov service for UK nationals.

This proposal is supported along with the assumption that full cost recovery would continue

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

10-14 working days – to allow time for the schedule to be issued and sent to the officiant in good time. If a s24 is raised or forced/ safeguarding concern at the in-person interview then there will need to be time for the investigation to be undertaken before the marriage takes place.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No - How would we know if sham/forced is an issue without the face to face meeting when much of this is done on a gut feeling in the presence of the couple. Also, by inviting couples to come in only where we have concerns would them tip them off that we harbour suspicions. This could also raise

equality issues

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

only if the information displayed is reduced, ie Name and Town/District. Personal information (address, age, etc) being displayed online would result in data protection issues and potential identity fraud. It would also encourage unlawful marketing approaches to the couple.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

12 months seems arbitrary, why not 24 months? a lot of couples start planning their wedding 2 years in advance and therefore they could book and be given an appointment to give notice at the same time. Reducing the need for reminders and chasing and therefore reduce costs

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1) Yes - provided that recognised groups like DSRs employed by the local authority can be recorded as a generic group (by 'type'), not as individuals. If not, larger districts will find this an unacceptable admin burden and creates a risk that on the day of the ceremony, the information will be incorrect and therefore potential for the marriage to not proceed.

2) Yes - provided that:

- a. There is provision to charge a full cost-recovery fee for amending the schedule.
- b. There is provision for a cut-off date when the schedule can no longer be amended in advance of the wedding/CP – for operational/logistical reasons.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a. Yes - provided that the local authority issuing the certificates can check that the replacement officiant was authorised to carry out their duties and the couple understand that their marriage/CP will not be legally recognised if not.

Please share your views below:

b. No – there should be no need to substitute the officiant except in the case of 'death, sudden illness or unavoidable delay'.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) No - Universal civil preliminaries should apply to create a level playing field and consistency, provide better control on sham/forced/safeguarding issues and to prevent pressure on ministers of religion.
- 2) Yes – Universal civil preliminaries should apply

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided that there is provision for a full cost-recovery fee to be charged for the attendance of the officiant, even if they are not leading the ceremony, and that the officiant should be properly trained, that training is refreshed regularly, and that the officiant should face sanctions for non-compliance with regulations. A regulating body for all officiants should be created and 'licenses' issued by this regulating body. The licenses should be timebound to avoid an ever growing list of officiants. The Local Authority would be best placed to deliver this function on the basis of full cost recovery

#### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If civil preliminaries are universal and any religious or non-religious marriage is legally recognised then a registrar should be able to officiate at any wedding regardless of who is leading the ceremony.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

with the proviso that we could insist on sending two members of staff under certain circumstances – ie. large number of guests, unusual/new venue, out of hours, couple not known to the service, etc. Where this is needed a full cost recovery fee should be charged

#### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

2) No – if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Please share your views below:

No – all organisations should be on a recognised list – if indeed the purpose of the consultation paper and subsequent reform of the marriage law is to create a clear and simple set of rules

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

2) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

This proposal opens to potential routes organisations to set up and facilitate sham, forced and coersive marriages

Where this is needed a full cost recovery fee should be charged

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No comment

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No comment

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

if the Government enables religious and non-religious officiants we propose that it would be more appropriate for the local authority to maintain the local list. Just as LAs do now for non conformist churches 'approved persons'

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if independent officiants are able to officiate at weddings then they should be on a recognised public list

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if enabled, independent officiants should be subject to universal full cost recovery fee regulations applicable to all officiants. All officiants should be either full cost recovery or able to make a profit - so the same rules apply to all officiants.

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If enabled, officiants should be limited to being in one group only.

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

because we support universal civil preliminaries and civil officiants attending all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it should rest with the local authority, (who would be their employer if all officiants are civil as above), or the holder of the local list of authorised officiants if not.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the local authority should act as above (see Q.37), but GRO should have the power to do so as the regulator if the local authority does not act.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

(See Q.37/Q.38 above). We propose that the local authority should manage the officiants and GRO only oversee it if the local authority fails to act.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be a time-limited membership fee subject to renewal, and regulations (such as having valid Public Liability Insurance), as with other professional bodies, and a de-authorisation process if inadequate CPD is undertaken. This will also help to keep the list contemporaneous and remove unclean data such as membership of deceased parties, for example.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See Q. 40 above

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. No – we should maintain the status quo:

- a. if physically able, customers should be required to orally express their consent
- b. if physically able, couples should be required to orally confirm no impediment.

2. Yes - provided that the expression of consent and confirmation of no impediment is a universal requirement that makes any marriage ceremony legally recognisable

3. No - parties should sign a declaration but see point 2 above – they should also have orally expressed consent and confirmed that there is no impediment during the ceremony. The declaration alone should not be sufficient for a marriage.

4. No - the marriage should be formed when the final signature is entered onto the declaration (couple, witnesses and officiant) AND after the couple have orally expressed their consent and confirmed that there is no impediment. All these conditions should need to be met for the marriage to be legally recognised.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- the form and ceremony should be chosen by the parties and agreed to, but the legal requirement for oral consent and confirmation of no impediment, and signing the declaration should be universal (as Q.42 above), to ensure that all marriages are consistently legally recognisable

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

the form of the ceremony and who can have one should be a matter for agreement by the religious group concerned, provided that they abide by the same legal requirements as for other groups (as outlined in Q.42 and Q.43 above).

As long as the legal parts of the ceremony remain secular and defined then the contents of the ceremony should be in agreement with the religious group concerned and defined at the outset

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

the legal parts of the ceremony should remain secular and as dictated by current civil registration legislation, however embellishments such as music and readings with religious content - that have no legal standing - should be allowed, provided that they comply with equality and diversity rules.

Please share your views below:

Nothing particular that should definitely be allowed, but anything that could be considered critical of another belief system or a recognised protected characteristic should not be allowed

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the rules re open doors should be consistent for all forms of marriages and the process for objecting to a wedding should be carried out during the notice period or after the marriage if the legal impediment to that marriage is established later.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - however all venues/locations should need to be licensed (albeit temporarily), encompassing checks on permission from the location/venue owner, a responsible person being present at the venue/location for the duration of the ceremony, appropriate insurance and risk assessments having been completed in line with health & safety regulations.

Licensing regulations would therefore need to be relaxed to include short-term licences (for example for one wedding only) and outside locations. To ensure resources were available for this temporary licensing process a full cost recovery fee would be required.

No location should automatically be disqualified, however there would need to be some checks and balances allowing legal guidance on an acceptable level of risk – for example, an officiant should not be required to conduct marriages in a location/venue that is considered high risk (such as in a hot air balloon or whilst bungee jumping for example). All Officiants

Must reserve the right to refuse to conduct a ceremony if they consider the location to be unsafe or at high risk

Owners/organisations operating a venue or location for wedding ceremonies should be able to choose what type of ceremony (civil, religious, non-religious) can take place in their venue, and what category or recognised officiant (civil, non-religious, religious) can lead these ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

see above

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it should be the decision of the licensing local authority (see Q.48 above).

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

a. Other – a dynamic risk assessments should be carried out on the day, but the location should already be licensed (albeit temporarily) including a full risk assessment, as in Q.48 above.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

b. Other - we believe that licensing should remain with the Local Authority (see Q.48 above) and if this is the case then - yes, GRO should provide guidance on whether a location is to be considered safe and dignified. GRO, or their approved training provider, should also provide such guidance to officiants for their dynamic risk assessment on the day.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

(see Q.48 above). The pre-approval process would be covered by our suggested licensing process.

Please share your views below:

Local authorities should be responsible and should licence a venue/location for a one-off, or series of, weddings.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided the details are added before it is signed

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but only if the marriage takes place in Wales

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- a. Accurate and representative signatures can be recorded
- b. There is a contingency in place if the electronic system fails (many countryside wedding venues have poor internet coverage)
- c. The officiant is responsible for back-capturing the registration if necessary in the event of a system failure

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes

2. Yes



3. Other – the marriage should be void if the ceremony was not officiated by an authorised officiant, regardless of whether the couple had knowledge of this or not.

4. Other – as above. If the opt in has not been given the same-sex marriage should be void, regardless of whether the couple has knowledge of this or not.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Other – maintain the status quo – typographical mistakes should not render a marriage void, however a significant mistake that could call into question the identity or marital status of one of the parties, for example, should render it void.

2. Yes – as previously stated in Q.42 above, a marriage should not be valid until the declaration is signed by all parties present, including the witnesses and officiant.

3. Yes - (see 2 above).

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

any one of 1(a), 1(b)(i), 1(b)(ii), or 2 should be enough individually to make the marriage non-qualifying, without the need for two tests to be satisfied.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

we believe that all legal processes must have been fulfilled for a presumption in favour of the validity of the marriage, but conversely we do not believe that the couple should be required to have cohabited for a period after its celebration, particularly in this day and age.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided that all forms of marriage are legally recognised then this should be abolished

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

it seems a nonsense that if a party believes they have entered into a marriage without expressing free and informed consent that they only have 3 years within which they can challenge the validity of that marriage.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Yes - registrars statutory fees for these services are nowhere near commensurate with the costs involved in providing the services, and the statutory fees for each of these services are not in line with each other. These fees should be regularly reviewed so as to represent realistic full cost recovery.

The criteria for a doctor signing off a letter for an RGL should also be more specific. Currently they are very subjective and many customers who continue to attend hospital appointments regularly are being signed off as apparently "on their death-bed".

It is not appropriate for the wider Council Tax-payers to substantially subsidise the marriage of a customer who could potentially afford to pay standard fees for getting married, just because they are terminally ill.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

fees for this service should be reviewed to reflect this extra work and represent full cost-recovery.

We are anecdotally aware of cases under the current system where the ill party knows nothing about the application for an RGL because there is not the requirement for the ill party to give notice and so the whole preparation can currently take place without the ill party's knowledge or consent.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The local authority, rather than GRO, should have the ability to reduce the waiting period, subject to confirmation by the doctor, and this should include the ability to take notice at home or in a clinical setting for the terminally ill patient.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

conversely we would propose a shorter timeframe (ideally less than 28 days) for the ceremony to take place and powers given to the local authority to arrange the marriage as soon as practicably possible after the issue of the schedule. If the schedule expires before the marriage has taken place the full fee should be repaid to restart the process. If the schedule lasts longer than 28 days then there is no reason for them to have had a reduction in the waiting period.

We are aware of numerous cases under the current regime where once the RGL has been issued the couple prefer to wait for an extended period of time before conducting their marriage. This time frame should be extended. Imposing a time limit to complete the marriage because of an arbitrary timeframe is unhelpful and may be causing rash decisions

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

there is no specific urgency in these cases and so the 12-month validity period should remain so as to be consistent with all other civil marriages.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes

2. No - a two-part mainly remote process could work but an in-person part of the process is required to check for safeguarding/sham/forced issues

3. No

4. No

Schedules/authorities should be extended to allow existing arrangements to take place after the national emergency, or couples should be able to marry outdoors to minimise the risk where appropriate.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would suggest that if anyone who may be at risk because of any work that they undertake in support of the national emergency wishes to get married quickly then the facility should exist for this to be allowed. The question here would be who determines if their job is in support of the national emergency?

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no issues with the proposal per se, provided that the technicalities of what district the couple are marrying in, and ensuring they are in UK territorial waters, are very clear and easy to follow. There would be complications with the distinction between English & Welsh, and Scottish law near the Scottish border, for example.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure if I agree with this as many vessels are registered in foreign countries and therefore they would be marrying under the rules of that country – I may have misunderstood the Q!!

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes -

If the proposals in the consultation documents suggest opening up the ability to marry in any venue( as long as it passed the appropriateness test) then why exclude privately owned vessels in water – the only thing that excludes this is the ability for objection to take place – not achievable if the vessel is privately owned and at sea! If the objection route is part of the notice period then this removes this from this scenario

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - provided they have had the same training and are subject to the same CPD as other officiants.

Yes - provided they have had the same training and are subject to the same CPD as other officiants

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Quite possibly – but unable to comment as have no knowledge of the demand in for religious/belief ceremonies this area

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- electronic copies should be received by the relevant district within 7 days, and the hard copy sent as soon as possible. The marriage could be registered on receipt of the electronic copy but certificates not issued until the hard copy has been received.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this should be full cost recovery, and should be regularly reviewed to keep pace with increasing costs.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

1) It is not appropriate for the wider Council Tax-payers to substantially subsidise the marriage of a customer who could potentially afford to pay standard fees for getting married, just because they are terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However the stat fee should be set at realistic full cost recovery basis (taking into account all elements of service provision)

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

– we believe it should always be set by the local authority.

If it is not locally set it should be set at national average cost recovery. Nationally set fees should also be reviewed regularly and uplifted in line with RPI/CPI

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it should be set at full cost-recovery set by the local authority. 'Full cost recovery' means it should include all of the costs for the full gamut of local authority work in relation to ceremonies, including on-costs and non-direct costs and it should not just be based on the registrar's hourly rate

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

fees for discretionary services should be dictated by the marketplace alone, and should not be regulated nor related to cost recovery. This income stream can significantly reduce the financial burden on the wider Council Tax-payer and allow local authority registration services to self-fund whilst supporting the provision of free statutory birth and death registrations.

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

if someone is detained then they do not have a choice to have a stat fee ceremony at a RO, so a realistic fee should be set at full cost recovery

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither - it should be set at a level that is full cost recovery. The vast majority of RGL cases are for couples who are seeking to avoid the payment of inheritance tax upon the death of one of the parties.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- if authorised officiants can operate anywhere within England & Wales then the RG should set the fees nationally on a true full cost-recovery basis.

Any fees in either case should include the cost of verifying qualifications are valid and that CPD is up to date (what does this mean?). It should be aligned with the current process for Approved Persons

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. No
2. No

The proposals will no doubt increase choice, but we have received no anecdotal feedback or evidence that suggests couples are foregoing getting married because of the current legal restrictions. On this basis, we don't see how the deregulation of marriages would increase the number of marriages taking place.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. We are currently only able to offer cost-effective budget options in decommissioned register office rooms because we also receive the income from more costly licensed venue marriages. If we were to potentially lose the licensed venue marriage income this would have a negative effect on our ability to continue to offer the low-cost budget options. For Statutory Register Office marriages these are already being subsidised by the wider Council Tax-payer because the statutory fee has been set far too low for full cost recovery purposes.

The income received from ceremonies largely funds the other elements of the Registration Service (births and death registrations for example) free at the point of delivery.

2. We are not aware of any feedback that our licensed venue attendance fees are too high. The fees paid are a very small proportion compared to the total cost of a wedding at such a venue. The fees we charge to venues to become a licensed premises are also very low when spread over 3 years.

3. The current statutory fee for sending a registrar where one is required does not cover our costs and should be reviewed regularly.

4. Nonsensical question as couples are not able to marry in locations that are not authorised. If couples wish to have a celebration of marriage this is their choice and the costs incurred are not set by us.

5. See point 4 above. There are a range of affordable options already available for a legal marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. If we lose the income from licensed premises and our attendance at weddings at these premises, due to full cost recovery rules we would be required to increase the cost of register office weddings in decommissioned rooms to subsidise all elements of the service.

2. We don't believe that couples should be able to get married in any location without pre-approval of some kind.

3. Although couples who choose to get married in any location may not have to have a separate legally recognised wedding the costs of getting married are unlikely to be reduced as a legal officiant would have to attend to make the marriage legal and the location would have to be assessed at least once prior to the marriage to ensure it is safe and dignified. Venues that are not used regularly (or 'one offs') would incur additional costs for these pre-ceremony risk assessments that are required by law for any business or organisation operating legally within Health & Safety legislation.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Licensed venues that are already operating as public-facing businesses should already be complying with the simple legal regulations regarding planning and health & safety that are required as part of the licensing process. These are not direct costs of being licensed – we find a number of potential venues do not comply with Health & Safety rules, so the licensing process forces them to comply, and we fear that a deregulated marketplace would have the effect of making some of these venues disregard the regulations.

The costs of becoming a licensed venue cover the administration and checks that these measures are in place, and ongoing support to the licensed venue from the Local Authority. The cost of being licensed is minimal in comparison to the potential income that venues can generate as a result.

2. The costs of registration officers attendance at a licensed venue are covered by the couple, not the licensed premises. We develop a relationship with our licensed venues and work well in partnership with them. We staff our provision according to demand and rarely turn away couples who want to book

with us.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Safety checks would still need to be in place for any officiant to attend a venue.
2. If we were to lose a proportion of our income we would be unable to employ as many registrars in the service and this would have a negative impact on our availability.
3. The proposed scheme would give couples more choice according to their own wishes and beliefs
4. We do not agree that the proposed changes would increase the number of couples getting married in the long term, just the choice of where they marry and who can marry them.

There is no mention here of any reference to the Muslim community and the issue that many Muslim women face when they 'marry' under their muslim culture and religious beliefs. If that marriage ends there is no protection for women and children of that marriage

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Because of the unfunded free provision of birth and death services, most local authorities subsidise these services with income from marriages (albeit whether this is right or wrong – this is the reality of the status quo). Removing the monopoly on secular marriages from the registration service will inevitably lead to a significant reduction in the way services are delivered and a financial burden on local authorities.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If our previous suggestions are taken into account, local authorities would be able to charge full cost-recovery fees for services that are currently under-funded. We would also be able to conduct weddings outdoors, for which there has been growing demand, and be more flexible on ceremony content for those couples with mixed beliefs.

A simpler solution to the whole proposal which would address the majority of couples' wishes would be to allow couples to marry anywhere within the footprint of licensed venues, including outdoors, and to allow the temporary licensing of venues or locations for one wedding. Retaining the monopoly of local authorities to provide civil marriages would ensure the ongoing quality and high training of staff, adherence to legislation and opportunities to spot sham, forced and the wider 'prevent agenda'.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. None. We are required to follow the requirements of the country they are getting married in.
2. Longer waiting period applies (as required by UKVI to undertake checks)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. This could potentially reduce the number of couples who travel abroad to get married.
2. There may possibly be a slight increase in people travelling the UK to get married from overseas, however it seems unlikely as in our experience most overseas nationals who choose to get married here do so because they either live here or are marrying a UK national. Again, we don't really have the climate to attract people to this country as a wedding. Don't agree with this statement

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Fees should be set at realistic full cost recovery. Ceremony fees currently subsidise other elements of the service that are delivered free. The cost recovery should consider all overheads of delivering a comprehensive Registration Service delivering all statutory functions. Including entering the marriage onto RON
2. Removal of licensing fee for approved venues will dilute any benefits to local businesses as there will be greater choice for the customer (same work more locations)
3. No comment
4. No comment
5. No comment

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDM-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-16 12:13:46

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Stephanie Pywell (Dr, if you require titles)

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Open University

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::  
Academic researcher with an interest in weddings law and celebrant-led couples ceremonies

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED]

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A



Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

[REDACTED]

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am leading a quantitative study, with Rebecca Probert, on the effect of the pandemic on couples' wedding plans.

A friend described her son's fiancée as having been 'beside herself' since lockdown began: they were due to marry on 28 March 2020, and have so far postponed twice. The prospective bridegroom is very distressed his wife's mental state.

My daughter's friend, who was due to marry in May 2020, is now on her second postponement, with the wedding scheduled for April 2021. The prospective bride's mother has cancer, and is not expected to live for much more than a year. The couple are seriously considering abandoning all their plans for the wedding they have been planning for two years, and having a small ceremony that they can arrange relatively quickly.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a pointless constraint for people who are (usually) so mobile, and the capacity for fraudulently establishing such residence renders it meaningless.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the online system is to be centralised, as appears to be the case – there is mention of 'a central hub' – presumably the notice would include details of the register office(s) at which the parties wanted to have their in-person interviews. The IT system would, self-evidently, need to be robust, which is not always the case with essential government IT projects.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days, provided that this would be sufficient time for a concerned registration officer to obtain a forced marriage protection order. If not, then the period should be whatever time is the minimum to obtain such an order, as the system must protect the most vulnerable.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that interviews should be in person, because of the possibility – identified in the CP – of coercion in other situations.

There should be – as the Consultation Paper later proposes – provision for regulations to be made to waive this requirement during pandemics and other national emergencies, and for registration officers to visit terminally ill, housebound or detained people to carry out these interviews.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Assuming that this refers to the initial giving of notice, I cannot see why such arrangements are necessary if notice can be given online or by post.

Provision could be made for the in-person interview to be postponed until less than the prescribed period before the wedding if one of the parties is a member of the armed forces who is serving abroad or at sea at the material time.

This provision should not, however, apply to people living abroad, as it would increase the vulnerability of people who might be compelled to travel to the UK the day before their forced marriage.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I share concerns about publishing individuals' addresses, and details of the planned wedding, so I welcome the proposal to withhold these.

Would it be possible to identify individuals only by their name and date of birth? There could be provision for anyone with concerns to contact the registration service to ascertain further details, subject to appropriate proof that they were concerned about the legality of the proposed marriage or the person's welfare. It would, however, be difficult to ensure that such enquiries were from someone with genuine concerns rather than, for example, a violent ex-partner.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Given that many weddings are planned up to three years ahead, I can see no objection to a schedule's validity being 36 months.

Whatever the initial period, my as-yet-unpublished empirical study of weddings that were scheduled to take place during or after lockdown suggests that there should be provision for the validity of a schedule to be extended, when a wedding is postponed beyond the validity period in circumstances that are beyond the couple's control. Evidence of the reason for the extension could be provided to cover such events as cancer treatment or a significant bereavement; national or global emergencies should also be covered, but there would be no need for evidence.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle, this is fine, but how would it work in the event of, eg an officiant's delayed train on the day of the marriage, especially if that occurred on a day, or at a time, when the registration service was not working? I would suggest that the proposal should go ahead, with further provision for last-minute amendments to be made on the schedule in exceptional circumstances.

Could this potential difficulty be resolved by having fields in which to enter the name of the 'planned officiant' and 'registering officiant (if not the planned officiant)'?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please see above answer.

Please share your views below:

A clear distinction needs to be drawn between foreseeable and planned changes of officiant, and last-minute substitutions.

Foreseeable and planned changes should require prior information, agreed by both parties, to be given the registration service. To permit one party to change the officiant would seem to strike at the heart of the officiant-based system, and to create opportunities for abuse. As the proposed system is to be officiant-based, such changes should be permissible only for a limited range of reasons that could not have been known about at the time that the schedule was issued – eg long-term illness or the side-effects of long-term treatment; the officiant re-locating to a significant distance from the agreed venue; ... and, probably, a catch-all of 'other reasons regarded by the registration service as substantial and valid, subject to the provision of appropriate supporting evidence.' This could cover things such as a series of text messages to which the proposed officiant had failed to respond, so that weddings were not unnecessarily delayed because of wayward officiants.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the system of banns is to be retained – I favour universal civil preliminaries – I agree with the proposal.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The logical church(es) in which to call the banns are those nearest to where the couple live. There is no point in calling banns if they are planning to marry in another church, as it is most unlikely that any member of the congregation will know either party.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

These duties should not be undertaken by clergy. They are not trained in regulatory and immigration matters, and may feel that such responsibilities are incompatible with their pastoral obligations.

Couples who are going to marry according to any religious rites should be made aware of the additional solemnity of that undertaking, so it is appropriate to require them to meet with their chosen officiant – by video-conferencing if necessary, since there will be no legal consequences – before applying for the schedule.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I favour abolishing this requirement, and making exceptional preliminaries subject to a universal civil procedure.

If the system for common licences is retained, I think the couple should be required to attend and make separate declarations.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

The compelling arguments against displaying civil notices in a small window apply equally to orally giving notice to a congregation of people, very few of whom are likely to know the parties.

I am undecided about whether the possibility of permitting ritualistic banns as part of the ceremonial and pastoral aspect of getting married in an Anglican church justifies the undue lengthening of the service that can occur in popular and picturesque churches, especially during the summer. I think the views of Anglican clergy should prevail on this issue.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the officiant should also be required to:

4. attend the wedding, subject to appropriate changes in the law to accommodate Jewish and Quaker usages;

5. declare, or indicate in some other approved way, the moment in the ceremony at which the couple become lawfully married. This is, after all, the pivotal moment of the proceedings. If religious rites or practices require that the ceremony be conducted in silence, the moment of becoming lawfully married could come when the schedule is signed. In weddings that last for several days, it would be quite possible for one party to abscond or die during the celebrations, and it would be vital in such circumstances to know whether this had occurred before or after the couple had become married.

#### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples could be given the option of requesting the attendance of a second registration officer, if their ceremony was going to be large or complex, and the could be required to cover the costs of this.

#### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided that steps are taken to ensure that they undergo the same training and assessment in the basic legalities of marriage law as all other officiants. This is desirable in order to avoid perpetuating the preferential treatment of Anglican clergy over other religious and non-religious organisations that can nominate officiants.

Training should include such universally applicable topics as health and safety and safeguarding requirements; anti-discrimination and data protection laws; best practice regarding equality, diversity and inclusion; and marriage-specific topics.

Given the history of Anglican clergy as a separate category of officiant in England and Wales, it may be appropriate for this training to be included as a formally assessed element of the ordination training provided by the Church of England and the Church in Wales.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The relevant governing authorities of such organisations may nominate officiants but, given the diversity of organisations, all nominees should be required to undergo centrally accredited training and formal assessment before they are authorised to officiate.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that any reform involving nominees should be limited to religious and non-religious belief organisations.

Subject to centrally accredited training and formal assessment before officiants are authorised, I can see no reason why any type of organisation – except those that are expressly proscribed, or promote views that are unlawful or contrary to morality or public policy – should be prohibited from nominating officiants.

As Jane Mair has pointed out, in 'Belief in Marriage' (2015) 5 International Journal of the Jurisprudence of the Family 63, there may be couples for whom the progress of a particular football club is a shared passion, and they might want a wedding that reflects this.

Please share your views below:

Only organisations that are expressly proscribed, or promote views that are unlawful or contrary to morality or public policy should be barred from nominating officiants.

It is notoriously hard to determine whether some non-religious beliefs fulfil the criteria for a 'philosophical belief' – an Employment Tribunal ruled that ethical veganism should be regarded as such in *Casamitjana v The League Against Cruel Sports* 2020; a different Employment Tribunal had ruled that vegetarianism was not such a belief in *Conisbee v Crossley Farms Ltd* – and this restriction would probably lead to unnecessary litigation.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would support this definition for religious organisations, but I do not think there should be a distinction between non-religious belief organisations and any other sort of non-proscribed organisation.

Despite its being the most prominent campaigning organisation for an increase in the type of officiant, Humanists UK does not have a marriage service, and prominently advertises the personalised and bespoke nature of its ceremonies. Its sincerely held belief about marriage – that it should take place in a ceremony that has maximum meaning for the couple – is one that is widely shared by people who would not identify as humanists. The second criterion above would therefore appear either to exclude officiants nominated by Humanists UK, or to unfairly discriminate against individuals and other organisations that share its sincerely held belief but do not regularly meet in furtherance of that belief.

To single out any non-religious belief organisations would simply change the pool of couples who cannot marry according to their beliefs. At present, this group includes humanists, couples who have different faiths from one another, and couples who have no religious or non-religious belief. If Humanists UK were treated as an exception on the basis of its belief system, and permitted to nominate officiants, the discrimination against all the other couples would continue to be enshrined in law, leaving it open to further challenge. The ceremonies of such couples can reflect their beliefs and lifestyles only if the pool of officiants is as wide as possible, and this must include independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - see above. It would be deleterious to the institution of marriage if such organisations were allowed to nominate officiants.

#### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, but the office-holders should be required to undertake the same centrally accredited training and formal assessment as all other potential officiants.

#### Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree in principle. In practice, however, the Registrar-General might choose to create a statutory regulatory body to undertake this and other regulatory functions, including accrediting initial and CPD training, administering formal assessments, and authorising officiants.

#### Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have conducted empirical research with independent 'wedding celebrants'. My article, 'Beyond beliefs: a proposal to give couples in England and Wales a real choice of marriage officiants', in CFLQ [2020] 215–238, indicates that most respondents would welcome this opportunity.

86% of 287 independent celebrants who responded to the empirical survey reported in 'Beyond beliefs: a proposal to give couples in England and Wales a real choice of marriage officiants' [2020] CFLQ 215–238 belonged to membership or training organisations. The survey was disseminated via celebrants' professional organisations, so it is almost inevitable that this figure over-estimates the true percentage of independent celebrants who are members of such organisations: there is no method of reaching independent celebrants with no professional network.

The article outlines a two-tier structure, dependent upon centrally accredited training and formal assessment, that would enable celebrants who wish to conduct only non-legally-binding celebration ceremonies to continue to do so, but to gain formal accreditation to officiate if they so wish. In view of the use of the word 'officiant' adopted in the Consultation Paper (which was published after my article had been accepted for publication), I would amend the ways of denoting the two levels of accreditation to 'Authorised celebrant' and 'Authorised officiant'.

The availability of accredited independent celebrants would afford couples maximum choice of ceremony and venue.

#### Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds attractive, but is too subjective. I recommend that all nominees should meet the criteria you outline, and the additions that I suggest in response to the next question.

I agree that it is not for the state to lay down criteria for ordination, or becoming a religious leader, but I do think it is the role of the state to ensure that everyone who officiates at a wedding is subject to the same stringent criteria, so that religious officiants are not seen as being treated differently from non-religious officiants.

#### Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the criteria, but think that further criteria should be applied to ALL potential officiants, rather than independent officiants only:

4. the successful completion of formal assessment
5. satisfactory DBS checks at the most stringent level (these may already exist for Anglican clergy and leaders of other religious groups)
6. proof of permission to work in England and Wales.

The term 'fit and proper' could be used as a convenient descriptor of any person who has satisfied the GRO or a statutory regulatory body that they have met all six requirements.

#### Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree for religious organisations.

If non-religious belief organisations are treated separately from other types of organisation, I would agree for them, too.

I do not agree for non-religious, non-belief organisations, since couples would have less expensive options than being married by, say, an officiant nominated by a football club.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The category of celebrant should be recorded on the central database of officiants. This should be publicly available, so that couples can make an informed choice of officiant.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree only to the extent that the formalities must be complied with in a dignified and solemn way.

After the schedule has been signed and witnessed, I see no reason why the rest of the ceremony should not be undignified, if that is agreed by the couple and officiant.

I would impose a requirement that no element of the ceremony should be criminal, obscene, violent, likely to give offence to one or more guests, or a risk to health and safety.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO should issue guidance only on the legal formalities.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above, I recommend a statutory regulatory body, so that all classes of officiant (including Anglican clergy) are treated equally.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should certainly be a power to de-authorise, subject to appropriate procedural safeguards.

This power should lie exclusively with the GRO or a statutory regulatory body that has oversight of all officiants.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In principle, yes, but this power could be delegated to a statutory regulatory body.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to the regular (possibly annual) successful completion of CPD training and related assessment to ensure that all officiants continue to demonstrate their possession of appropriate skills and updated knowledge.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this should apply to all officiants, not just independent officiants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with 1–3.

Instead of 4, I think the officiant should declare, or indicate in some other approved way, the moment in the ceremony at which the couple become lawfully married. For many couples, and their guests, this is the pivotal moment of the proceedings, and they may feel that a ceremonial or ritualistic act – such as the exchange of rings and accompanying promises, the tying of hands, or walking round a fire together – is more important and definitive than simply giving their consent to becoming spouses.

If religious rites or practices require that the ceremony be conducted in silence, or in the absence of one of the parties, the moment of becoming lawfully married could, as the CP suggests, come when the schedule is signed, and option (2) could be modified to accommodate this.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand Humanists UK's view, expressed at 6.91, that non-religious belief content should be excluded from civil ceremonies. So far as is ascertainable from the organisation's website, there is no non-religious belief content in a 'wedding' conducted by a celebrant accredited by Humanists UK.

This raises the question of whether a wedding potentially conducted by an officiant accredited by Humanists UK is in any material way different from a wedding potentially conducted by an independent officiant. As noted in 'Beyond beliefs: a proposal to give couples in England and Wales a real choice of marriage officiants', CFLQ [2020] 215–238, one piece of feedback quoted on the organisation's website is the following:

'I wholeheartedly recommend a humanist wedding. It is so customisable that it can surmount any boundaries of religion, culture or language. As with anything bespoke it does take a bit more time to consider material you would like the ceremony to contain, but it is so worth it. You will have a ceremony that is 100% you.' <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-weddings/faqs/> accessed 7 October 2020.

This, in turn, reinforces my view that non-religious belief organisations should not be treated any differently from other types of organisation.

Regarding 6.93, I would have thought that a future Parliament could make different rules governing religious content in weddings conducted by registration officers from those governing religious content in weddings conducted by other non-religious officiants. Providing couples with a choice of ceremonies that were exclusively religious, exclusively secular, or blended religious and secular, would maximise choice, and simplify matters for the registration service, so this would be my preferred option.

If the Commission does not feel able to differentiate in this way, I would support lifting the ban on religious content in all civil ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

I do not favour providing a list of examples, because this could be interpreted by some officiants as excluding other religious content.

Provided that the legal formalities are fulfilled, any necessary constraints on the length of the ceremony are complied with, and health and safety is not compromised nor the law broken, the couple should be free to include whatever religious content they wish. It would be for the couple and officiant to decide to what, if any, extent the officiant should engage in the religious elements of the ceremony's content.

Independent officiants have existed in Jersey for only 22 months, seven of which have been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. I think it inevitable that, when more ceremonies come to be conducted by independent officiants, the provisions presented in 6.102 will be applied inconsistently, and will lead to the difficulties of the kind identified in 'Neither sacred nor profane: the permitted content of civil marriage ceremonies' [2018] CFLQ 415. The exclusion of prayers, in particular, is likely to be problematic: as a member of the National Panel for Registration expressed it to me in 2019: 'some couples would like to have The Lord's Prayer, just in case'.

It is clearly appropriate expressly to exclude some of the most sacred elements of religious practices – such as the taking of the Christian Eucharist – from non-religious ceremonies, but I see no reason why couples and guests in a civil wedding should not offer less ritualised forms of worship to a deity whom they believe to be omnipresent.

Therefore, I would favour an exhaustive list of content that is specifically excluded from all non-religious weddings. This list should be compiled after consultation with representatives of all the major religions, and should be publicly available to all officiants and couples. All other religious content should be permitted in all ceremonies that are not exclusively secular.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican clergy and other religious officiants may be prohibited from marrying same-sex or interfaith couples, or couples where one or both parties are divorced, but such couples may wish to have a minimal legal wedding, followed by a longer and more substantial wedding-related blessing or similar ceremony in a religious place that is meaningful to them, conducted by a religious person.

This legal provision does not infringe on any of the proposals for equality and freedom of choice – indeed, it increases the latter, albeit for a minority of couples. It is arguable, however, whether the provision for such ceremonies needs to remain enshrined in statute.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to the officiant being satisfied that the venue is safe and appropriate. I think 'dignified' is too restrictive, since this would not apply to hot-air balloons, weddings underwater or in the sea, ceremonies involving very young children or animals, all of which were reported by the respondent independent celebrants in the survey reported in 'The day of their dreams: celebrant-led wedding celebration ceremonies' CFLQ [2020] 177–199.

Please share your views below:

There should be no limits other than 'safe and appropriate' on wedding venues, though consideration would need to be given to insurance for potentially high-risk venues such as hot-air balloons, speedboats and cliff-tops.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No



No

Please expand on your answer:

The law should be as permissive as possible.

(1) and (3) Religious and other organisations can impose constraints on the use of any venues that they own; it would, for example, be unlikely that a civil or non-religious wedding could take place in a traditional Catholic or Anglican church, but quite possible that a modern evangelical church would regard its premises as a community facility that could be hired for specific purposes.

(2) Subject to the rules set down by the governing bodies of religious organisations, I see no reason why a religious wedding should not take place anywhere agreed by the officiant and the couple.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As noted above, I think 'dignity' is too stringent a requirement.

In addition to satisfying themselves as to the safety and suitability of a venue, officiants should be charged with pointing out to couples any potential practical difficulties, such as parking facilities, accessibility for disabled persons, the potential consequences of inclement weather, and the provision or otherwise of toilets.

I disagree with the suggestion in 7.167 that registration officers and independent officiants should be obliged to conduct weddings in all sorts of locations; they should have a free choice and, if the couple prioritises the venue over the identity of the officiant, they could seek a new officiant. There could be valid reasons why some officiants, such as those with certain hidden medical conditions – such as Reynaud's syndrome – would not wish to conduct weddings in venues that were, technically, safe and accessible to them.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It might be helpful for the GRO to provide some general guidance, but this should be purely advisory because, as the CP points out, officiants' knowledge of venues will vary, and this will affect the process that they may wish to adopt.

As the experience with 'religious in nature' shows, GRO guidance is almost certain to be interpreted in various ways by officiants, and this risk – and hence the unequal treatment of couples – increases with the purported specificity of the guidance.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

1. The Responsible Officer in the local authority, who could delegate as necessary.

2. There should be statutory requirements, including: a visit to the venue at least once every five years, annual provision of certificates of public liability insurance and fire safety, food hygiene certificates where appropriate, full compliance with the Equality Act 2010, etc. Many of the requirements would necessarily be met by hotels, but not by more unusual, but potentially popular, venues such as ruined castles.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the following information should be compulsory;

the full names of the parties

the parties' ages or dates of birth  
the date of the wedding  
the name and, if appropriate, affiliation, of the officiant (if different from the officiant named when the schedule was issued)  
the location of the wedding.

The following should be optional:  
the parties' occupations  
the parties' parents' names  
the parties' parents' occupations.

Would it be possible to include details of a step-parent, or a parent's long-term partner, or a foster carer, instead of a parent, if one of the parties wished to reflect that person's significant role in the party's upbringing?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An option should be available for religious and other organisations, and independent celebrants, to maintain their own separate registers if they so wish, and if couples wish to sign them. I am uncertain whether legal provision needs to be made for this, but it would be unfortunate if a ceremonial aspect that many couples value were removed because of full electronic registration.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree with option 2. I think this should make a marriage voidable, and the burden of proof should be on the person seeking to avoid the marriage to establish that both of the couple knew that the authority had lapsed.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but...

If there were a defined moment at which the couple became legally married, and this was known to all parties, option 3 could render a marriage void if the ceremony were one where signing the schedule was agreed to be the point at which the legal marriage took place. This would make the signatures irrelevant to the legality of the marriage where they are 'just the paperwork', but would be of greater significance if neither of the couple nor any other person had done or said anything to declare that the parties had actually become spouses.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no personal experience or research-based knowledge of these circumstances.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned about the proposal, in 11.30, that there should be 'no waiting period' between the giving of notice and the issuing of the document authorising the wedding, because terminally ill people are extremely vulnerable. If a couple requested the issue of the document immediately, how would the private interview with the terminally ill person (as proposed at 11.25) take place?

Could the terminology be something like: 'no statutory waiting period after the parties have been separately interviewed by a registration officer'? This would enshrine the safeguard of the interviews, while minimising unnecessary delay.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to contradict the principle that the 28-day time limit between giving notice and the in-person interview should be reduced for terminally ill people because the marriage is urgent.

I would therefore favour an initial 28-day period of validity. If the couple do not marry within that time, possibly because the terminally ill person makes an unexpected recovery, they should be able to apply for a new authorising document without being charged for giving notice for a second time. There should be a 28-day period between the reinstatement of notice and the issuing of an authorising document that would have the normal period of validity.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Early findings from an empirical study that I have led with Rebecca Probert, to which we received 1,449 useable responses, indicate that a significant minority of couples would have been prepared to marry remotely, or in a socially distanced way, during complete lockdown. It therefore seems sensible to delegate legislative powers that permit appropriate regulations to be made rapidly in the event of a national emergency.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As the CP points out, couples may have compelling reasons, other than terminal illness, for wishing to marry quickly during a national emergency.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the emergency provisions should also facilitate weddings of those who wish to marry because a close relative or friend is at increased risk of death, whose visas may expire during the period when 'normal' weddings are prohibited, etc. It is impossible to provide an exhaustive list of circumstances in which such facilitation would be desirable.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

There are some large sailing ships in which able-bodied and disabled people are able to serve together as crew members for periods of several weeks or months, while the ship goes very long distances. See the Jubilee Sailing Trust's website: <https://jst.org.uk/>. This type of vessel could acquire particular significance for some couples.

Large private yachts might also be a meaningful place to some couples.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no relevant knowledge.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is too vague. Could there be a requirement such as 'within seven days of landing at a place where there is a postal service via which the schedule could be returned to the registration service', with couples being required to secure proof of posting as evidence that they had tried to comply with this law?

There would clearly be a greater risk of schedules going astray if they were posted somewhere other than England or Wales, so there might need to be special follow-up procedures for non-receipt of schedules for weddings that had been planned to take place in international waters.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a good idea in principle.

However, it is likely that many detained and housebound people are impecunious, so they could effectively be disbarred from marrying, which would be unlawful. Could there be some sort of financial support or waiver scheme that would enable local authorities to recover their costs in circumstances where a person who wished to marry was able to establish that, on the balance of probabilities, they were unable to afford the inescapable costs of doing so?

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The law should make it clear what sanctions would apply to a local authority that did not provide such weddings, since this is currently unclear.

Booking and 'administration' fees should be unlawful in respect of register office weddings.

'Register office' should be interpreted to include 'registration office'.

The law should specify the minimum number of 'slots' per week at every register office (as defined above) that every local authority must provide for such ceremonies.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that registration officers should provide advance estimates of the total fee, which should be calculated to include travel by car or public transport, parking, and any necessary walking. These estimates should be binding, so that the couple are not penalised if the journey is unduly protracted for any reason. Registration services could cover their occasional losses under these arrangements by adding a notional contingency sum to all their estimates.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, binding estimates should be provided in advance.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My answer to CQ75 applies equally here.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other professions' regulatory bodies charge initial and continuing registration fees, and my survey of independent celebrants, reported in 'Beyond beliefs: a proposal to give couples in England and Wales a real choice of marriage officiants', CFLQ [2020] 215–238, established that most respondents would be willing to pay for initial and continuing authorisation to conduct legally binding wedding ceremonies.

I suggest that religious and non-religious belief organisations would be required to pay for the initial and continuing registration of their nominated officiants, and these costs could be recovered by amortising them across the number of ceremonies that each officiant would be expected to conduct each year.

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The provisional proposals would make it clearer to some couples whether they were getting married or not so, if they wished to be legally married, it would increase their chances of doing so.

The proposals for greater choice, reduced cost and simplified laws seem certain to reduce the number of couples who opt for non-legally-binding wedding-style ceremonies, and never actually marry.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. My desk-based research, published as '2 + 2 = £127, if you're lucky' and 'Availability of two-plus-two marriage ceremonies', both in ([2020] Law Society Gazette, suggests that there is currently inadequate provision of 'minimal' register office weddings, and that the cost and availability of these is poorly advertised. This could discourage some couples from getting married, or make it practically or financially impossible for them to do so.

2. and 3. I agree with the conclusions of the Consultation Paper regarding the costs of marrying on approved premises and in registered places of worship.

4. and 5. At present, couples who wish to marry in such places must pay for both a legally binding wedding and a separate wedding-style ceremony led by an independent celebrant or a celebrant accredited by Humanists UK. This is an absurd, but inevitable, consequence of the current law governing weddings.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Sanction-backed obligations for local authorities to provide more such ceremonies, in all register and registration offices, for no more than the prescribed fee, and to advertise them prominently on their websites, could encourage more people to marry cheaply.

2. I agree with the conclusions of the Consultation Paper regarding the potential savings to be made here - these would be very significant in cases such as outdoor venues and private homes. The reduced costs of marrying on approved premises and in registered places of worship would be reduced by the reduction in the number of persons who would be paid to attend, and the lower cost of regulation, but would not necessarily change very significantly.

3. The necessity of having a separate, legally binding wedding would be removed for everyone except religious couples whose circumstances prevented them from being married by a religious officiant of their choice in a place of worship of their choice. Such couples would probably continue to have a separate religious ceremony, but the overall costs of their wedding celebrations would be significantly reduced if the cost and availability of register office weddings were more tightly regulated so as to reduce the former and increase the latter.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The CP makes it clear that the current law has restricted the ability of some actual and potential businesses to provide the venues that they would like to provide, or to take as many bookings for them as they would wish.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It is impossible to answer this question without taking account of the catastrophic effect that the pandemic has had on many aspects of the wedding industry. What follows is therefore predicated on the assumption that some venues will survive, and attempts to assess what the effect on them might be.

(1) This is likely to be a significant benefit.

(2) The reduction in the number of registration officers required to attend each wedding will double officers' availability, which will be of benefit to venues, particularly in the most popular months.

(3) This will enable venues to take more bookings for weddings, as there will be more officiants available to conduct such weddings.

(4) This would be of benefit to businesses, but a number of posts that I read in wedding-related Facebook groups during my most recent empirical research suggest that some couples are realising the benefits of small, simple wedding ceremonies, attended only by the people they are closest to. It is therefore possible that, although there will probably be more weddings if the law is changed, the wedding industry will not benefit as much as might be expected, because significant numbers of couples may come to prioritise substance over style. There seems to be widespread agreement that, without a change in the law, the wedding industry is unlikely to recover fully.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The fact that many registration officers have to have multiple designations – as, for instance, registrars and deputy superintendent registrars – is clearly burdensome. Recruiting, training and paying such staff constitute unnecessary overhead costs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The necessity for only one registration officer to attend every civil wedding would represent benefits in terms of costs and efficiency.

If Parliament chose to permit weddings to be conducted by independent officiants and officiants nominated by religious and non-religious organisations, it is likely that there would be a significant decrease in the demand for wedding ceremonies conducted by registration officers. This would almost certainly lead to redundancies directly arising from the reduced demand for services. I suspect that the loss of this monopoly would also lead to a significant, and possibly very damaging, reduction in overall income for local authorities.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I suspect that the restrictive nature of the current law causes many couples to travel to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Jersey to marry. I doubt whether the law is a significant consideration in destination weddings, or those that occur in countries where couples' families live.

2. The only feature of the current law that I imagine is attractive to non-residents of England and Wales is the possibility of marrying in exceptional approved premises, such as stately homes and castles.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I think the proposed scheme would reduce the number of couples who travel to Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Jersey to marry. I do not think that it would have much effect on the number of couples who choose destination weddings, or weddings in countries where their families live.

2. Since the law would amount to 'levelling up' with some other countries, I can see no reason why it would increase the number of couples who travel to England or Wales to marry.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no relevant knowledge at all, but accept the Consultation Paper's findings.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no relevant knowledge at all, but accept the Consultation Paper's findings.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I accept the Consultation Papers' findings on these points for 1. to 4.

If the system of centrally accredited training and formal assessment that I propose were implemented, the initial costs would be higher, but they could be recouped from a wider group of officiants and organisations.

Overall, I think the proposals would serve their declared aim of reducing costs for couples who wish to marry in England or Wales.

This Consultation Paper is a model of clarity and comprehensiveness. I lost count of the times I read something and thought 'yes, but what about...?', only to find that that issue was dealt with a few paragraphs later. I offer thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in the production of such a well-researched and readable document.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDAQ-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-16 15:01:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED], completing this as Secretary to SERB

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

SERB - South East Registration Board. What follows represents the agreed combined responses from Registration Service Managers and/or Proper Officers representing the following Registration Districts: Bracknell Forest, Brighton & Hove, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, Surrey, West Berkshire, West Sussex, Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The inability to change primary legislation to allow Notices already given to be extended during lockdown and recovery has caused extensive extra work for local authorities and unnecessary extra costs and inconvenience for thousands of customers, including some couples who are now abroad and cannot return to give Notice again.

The inability to change primary legislation to allow Notices to be completed partly online during lockdown and recovery has exposed hundreds of registrars across the country to needless exposure to the virus as a result of extended face to face appointments with couples.

The interpretation by GRO that existing venue licenses could not be extended by Local Authorities caused huge frustration and additional workload at a time when LAs were already under much stress.

Customer frustration with the law – ie. not being able to change location of venue without giving Notice again – again the inability to change primary legislation for giving notice to permit this.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The 7-day residency rule is irrelevant in modern society as couples can book themselves into a hotel or stay with friends for 7 days to comply with it and this is then sufficient for them to become 'resident' in the area they are staying in.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This raises potential issues for Section 24 (s24) reporting on potential sham marriages if the first part is done remotely, (although arguably s24 reports don't necessarily stop many marriages going ahead). This could be resolved by a longer period between the in-person interview and the marriage date for foreign nationals.

Some couples would still want to do the first part in person and there is a danger of this option becoming crowded out if there is pressure to do it remotely. As has been the case with certificate ordering online, now this has become mainstream many local authorities have removed the ability for this to be done in person, and a similar situation could arise if the majority of couples opt to do this online.

There is a danger that the first part could be done by one of the couple alone answering for both parties which would play into the forced marriage agenda and may mask safeguarding issues. To that end, if this is agreed, the in-person meeting must include safeguarding questions individually from each other so that both parties confirm they wanted to enter into the marriage.

We are content for British nationals marrying other British nationals to do the process remotely, but we are not content for this to be done by foreign nationals, although this would create a two-tier system. That said, one already exists now with the 28/70 day waiting period.

Might be more sensible to take a step further and utilise the Verify.Gov service for UK nationals.

It would be very resource intensive for each LA to create their own online system – it would make good sense for this to be one national system which then allows couples to choose which location they prefer for the in-person interview

#### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven working days – to allow time for the schedule to be issued and sent to the officiant in good time. If a s24 is raised or forced/ safeguarding concern at the in-person interview then there will need to be time for the investigation to be undertaken before the marriage takes place and so this may well take longer than 7 working days.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No - How would we know if sham/forced is an issue without the face to face meeting when much of this is done on a gut feeling in the presence of the couple? Also, by inviting couples to come in only where we have concerns would them tip them off that we harbour suspicions. This might also raise equality issues.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the information displayed is reduced, ie Name and Town/District. Personal information (address, age, etc) being displayed online would result in data protection issues and potential identity fraud. It would also encourage unlawful marketing approaches to the couple.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1) Yes - provided that recognised groups like DSRs employed by the local authority can be recorded as a generic group, not as individuals.

2) Yes - provided that:

- a. There is provision to charge a full cost-recovery fee for amending the schedule.
- b. There is provision for a cut-off date when the schedule can no longer be amended in advance of the wedding/CP – for operational/logistical reasons.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the local authority issuing the certificates can check that the replacement officiant was authorised to carry out their duties and the couple understand that their marriage/CP will not be legally recognised if not.

Please share your views below:

No – there should be no need to substitute the officiant except in the case of 'death, sudden illness or unavoidable delay'.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Universal civil preliminaries should apply to create a level playing field and consistency, provide better control on sham/forced/safeguarding issues and to prevent pressure on ministers of religion.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that there is provision for a full cost-recovery fee to be charged for the attendance of the officiant, even if they are not leading the ceremony, and that the officiant should be properly trained, that training is refreshed regularly, and that the officiant should face sanctions for non-compliance with regulations.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If civil preliminaries are universal and any religious or non-religious marriage is legally recognised then a registrar should be able to officiate at any wedding regardless of who is leading the ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the proviso that we could insist on sending two members of staff under certain circumstances – ie. large number of guests, unusual/new venue, out of hours, etc.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony. Alternatively, if only one officiant is permitted then the religious organization should nominate their own officiant.

2) No – if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony. Alternatively, if only one officiant is permitted then the non-religious belief organization should nominate their own officiant.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Please share your views below:

No – All organisations should be on a recognised list

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony. This proposal would be open to potential for organisations to set up in order to facilitate sham/forced/coerced marriages

2) No - if universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony. This proposal would be open to potential for organisations to set up in order to facilitate sham/forced/coerced marriages

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No comment

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No comment

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the Government enables religious and non-religious officiants we propose that it would be more appropriate for the local authority to maintain the local list.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony. Alternatively, if independent officiants are able to officiate at weddings they should need to be authorised and included on the public list

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If enabled, independent officiants should be subject to universal full cost recovery fee regulations applicable to all officiants. All officiants should be either full cost recovery or able to make a profit - so the same rules apply to all officiants.

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If enabled, officiants should be limited to being in one group only.

NB. If universal civil preliminaries are in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because we support universal civil preliminaries and civil officiants attending all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.

If only one officiant is permitted then also yes GRO should issue guidance to all officiants

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should rest with the local authority, (who would be their employer if all officiants are civil as above), or the holder of the local list of authorised officiants if not.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The local authority should act as above (see Q.37), but GRO should have the power to do so as the regulator if the local authority does not act.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

(See Q.37/Q.38 above). We propose that the local authority should manage the officiants and GRO only oversee it if the local authority fails to act.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time-limited membership fee subject to renewal, and regulations (such as having valid Public Liability Insurance), as with other professional bodies, and a de-authorisation process if inadequate CPD is undertaken. This will also help to keep the list contemporaneous and remove unclean data such as membership of deceased parties, for example.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

(See Q.40 above)

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. No – we should maintain the status quo:

- a. if physically able, customers should be required to orally express their consent
- b. if physically able, couples should be required to orally confirm no impediment.

2. Yes - provided that the expression of consent and confirmation of no impediment is a universal requirement that makes any marriage ceremony legally recognisable

3. No - parties should sign a declaration, but see point 2 above – they should also have orally expressed consent and confirmed that there is no impediment during the ceremony. The declaration alone should not be sufficient for a marriage.

4. No - the marriage should be formed when the final signature is entered onto the declaration (couple, witnesses and officiant) AND after the couple have orally expressed their consent and confirmed that there is no impediment. All these conditions should need to be met for the marriage to be legally recognised.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The form and ceremony should be chosen by the parties and agreed to, but the legal requirement for oral consent and confirmation of no impediment, and signing the declaration should be universal (as Q.42 above), to ensure that all marriages are consistently legally recognisable

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The form of the ceremony and who can have one should be a matter for agreement by the religious group concerned, provided that they abide by the same legal requirements as for other groups (as outlined in Q.42 and Q.43 above).

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The legal parts of the ceremony should remain secular and as dictated by current civil registration legislation, however embellishments such as music and readings with religious content - that have no legal standing - should be allowed, provided that they comply with equality and diversity rules.

Please share your views below:

Nothing particular that should definitely be allowed, but anything that could be considered critical of another belief system or a recognised protected characteristic should not be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone should be able to celebrate in any way they choose following a legal marriage, but in all cases it should be clear to everyone attending and witnessing such a celebratory ceremony that it is not a legally recognised marriage ceremony and that the couple are already legally married.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The rules re open doors should be consistent for all forms of marriages and the process for objecting to a wedding should be carried out during the notice period or after the marriage if the legal impediment to that marriage is established later.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However all venues/locations should need to be licensed (albeit temporarily), encompassing checks on permission from the location/venue owner, a responsible person being present at the venue/location for the duration of the ceremony, appropriate insurance and risk assessments having been completed in line with health & safety regulations.

Licensing regulations would therefore need to be relaxed to include short-term licences (for example for one wedding only) and outside locations. To ensure resources were available for this temporary licensing process a full cost recovery fee would be required.

Please share your views below:

No location should automatically be disqualified, however there would need to be some checks and balances allowing legal guidance on an acceptable level of risk – for example, all officiants should not be required to conduct marriages in a location/venue that is considered high risk (such as in a hot air balloon or whilst bungee jumping for example).

Owners/organisations operating a venue or location for wedding ceremonies should be able to choose what type of ceremony (civil, religious, non-religious) can take place in their venue, and what category or recognised officiant (civil, non-religious, religious) can lead these ceremonies.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the decision of the licensing local authority (see Q.48 above).

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



A dynamic risk assessments should be carried out on the day, but the location should already be licensed (albeit temporarily) including a full risk assessment, as in Q.48 above.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that licensing should remain with the Local Authority (see Q.48 above) and if this is the case then - yes, GRO should provide guidance on whether a location is to be considered safe and dignified. GRO, or their approved training provider, should also provide such guidance to officiants for their dynamic risk assessment on the day.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

(See Q.48 above). The pre-approval process would be covered by our suggested licensing process.

Please share your views below:

Local authorities should be responsible and should licence a venue/location for a one-off, or series of, weddings.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the details are added before it is signed

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if the marriage takes place in Wales

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that:

- a. Accurate and representative signatures can be recorded
- b. There is a contingency in place if the electronic system fails (many countryside wedding venues have poor internet coverage)
- c. The officiant is responsible for back-capturing the registration if necessary in the event of a system failure

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes

2. Yes

3. Other – the marriage should be void if the ceremony was not officiated by an authorised officiant, regardless of whether the couple had knowledge of this or not.

4. Other – as above. If the opt in has not been given the same-sex marriage should be void, regardless of whether the couple has knowledge of this or not.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Other – maintain the status quo – typographical mistakes should not render a marriage void, however a significant mistake that could call into question the identity or marital status of one of the parties, for example, should render it void.

2. Yes – as previously stated in Q.42 above, a marriage should not be valid until the declaration is signed by all parties present, including the witnesses and officiant.

3. Yes - (see 2 above).

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any one of 1(a), 1(b)(i), 1(b)(ii), or 2 should be enough individually to make the marriage non-qualifying, without the need for two tests to be satisfied.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that all legal processes must have been fulfilled for a presumption in favour of the validity of the marriage, but conversely we do not believe that the couple should be required to have cohabited for a period after its celebration, particularly in this day and age.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that all forms of marriage are legally recognised then this should be abolished

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems a nonsense that if a party believes they have entered into a marriage without expressing free and informed consent that they only have 3 years within which they can challenge the validity of that marriage.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Yes - Registrar's statutory fees for these services are nowhere near commensurate with the costs involved in providing the services, and the statutory fees for each of these services are not in line with each other. These fees should be regularly reviewed so as to represent realistic full cost recovery.

The criteria for a doctor signing off a letter for an RGL should also be more specific. Currently they are very subjective and many customers who continue to attend hospital appointments regularly are being signed off as apparently "on their death-bed".

It is not appropriate for the wider Council Tax-payers to substantially subsidise the marriage of a customer who could potentially afford to pay standard fees for getting married, just because they are terminally ill.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - Fees for this service should be reviewed to reflect this extra work and represent full cost-recovery.

We are anecdotally aware of cases under the current system where the ill party knows nothing about the application for an RGL because there is not the

requirement for the ill party to give notice and so the whole preparation can currently take place without the ill party's knowledge or consent.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The local authority, rather than GRO, should have the ability to reduce the waiting period, subject to confirmation by the doctor, and this should include the ability to take notice at home or in a clinical setting for the terminally ill patient.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Conversely we would propose a shorter timeframe (ideally less than 28 days) for the ceremony to take place and powers given to the local authority to arrange the marriage as soon as practicably possible after the issue of the schedule. If the schedule expires before the marriage has taken place the full fee should be repaid to restart the process. If the schedule lasts longer than 28 days then there is no reason for them to have had a reduction in the waiting period.

We are aware of numerous cases under the current regime where once the RGL has been issued the couple prefer to wait for an extended period of time before conducting their marriage and often this leads to a situation where it is too late because the terminally ill party dies before the marriage can take place. Denial of the seriousness of the illness and imminence of death is commonplace.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no specific urgency in these cases and so the 12-month validity period should remain so as to be consistent with all other civil marriages.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes
2. No - a two-part mainly remote process could work but an in-person part of the process is required to check for safeguarding/sham/forced issues
3. No
4. No - Schedules/authorities should be extended to allow existing arrangements to take place after the national emergency, or couples should be able to marry outdoors to minimise the risk where appropriate.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Doctors can still provide evidence of illness remotely.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No issues with the proposal per se, provided that the technicalities of what district the couple are marrying in, and ensuring they are in UK territorial waters, are very clear and easy to follow. There would be complications with the distinction between English & Welsh, and Scottish law near the Scottish border, for example.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it would make sense that the 'port of choice' would be the port of registration of the vessel.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes - But only on commercial vessels registered in the UK with a captain on board with recognised commercial qualifications.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they have had the same training and are subject to the same CPD as other officiants.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Quite possibly – to our knowledge most commercial vessels already have their own chaplain, but as we are not experts in this area, we are not in a position to comment.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic copies should be received by the relevant district within 7 days, and the hard copy sent as soon as possible. The marriage could be registered on receipt of the electronic copy but certificates not issued until the hard copy has been received.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be full cost recovery, and should be regularly reviewed to keep pace with increasing costs.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

It is not appropriate for the wider Council Tax-payers to substantially subsidise the marriage of a customer who could potentially afford to pay standard fees for getting married, just because they are terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be set district by district, locally agreed on a full cost-recovery basis.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe it should always be set by the local authority.

If it reflected full cost recovery a statutory fee is easier & fair to all – which must be reviewed annually to keep pace with cost increases. Local registration offices will not then be under pressure to raise fees. The term of the approval would also need to be established.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be set at full cost-recovery set by the local authority. 'Full cost recovery' means it should include all of the costs for the full gamut of local authority work in relation to ceremonies, including on-costs, back office and non-direct costs and it should not just be based on the registrar's hourly rate

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees for discretionary services should be dictated by the marketplace alone, and should not be regulated nor related to cost recovery. This income stream can significantly reduce the financial burden on the wider Council Tax-payer and allow local authority registration services to self-fund whilst supporting the provision of free statutory birth and death registrations.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We do not agree that fees should be prescribed for the registration officer to officiate at any wedding.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither - It should be set at a level that is full cost recovery. The vast majority of RGL cases are for couples who are seeking to avoid the payment of inheritance tax upon the death of one of the parties.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If authorised officiants can operate anywhere within England & Wales then the RG should set the fees nationally on a true cost-recovery basis.

Alternatively, if authorised officiants can only operate in the district where they registered, then the local authority should be able to set the fees on a full cost-recovery basis.

Any fees in either case should include the cost of verifying qualifications are valid and that CPD is up to date.

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. No
2. No

The proposals will no doubt increase choice, but we have received no anecdotal feedback or evidence that suggests couples are foregoing getting married because of the current legal restrictions. On this basis, we don't see how the deregulation of marriages would increase the number of marriages taking place.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. We are currently only able to offer cost-effective budget options in decommissioned register office rooms because we also receive the income from more costly licensed venue marriages. If we were to potentially lose the licensed venue marriage income this would have a negative effect on our ability to continue to offer the low-cost budget options. For Statutory Register Office marriages these are already being subsidised by the wider Council Tax-payer because the statutory fee has been set far too low for full cost recovery purposes.
2. We are not aware of any feedback that our licensed venue attendance fees are too high. The fees paid are a very small proportion compared to the total cost of a wedding at such a venue. The fees we charge to venues to become a licensed premises are also very low when spread over 3 years.
3. The current statutory fee for sending a registrar where one is required does not cover our costs and should be reviewed regularly.
4. This question is not clear, couples are not currently able to marry in locations that are not authorised. If couples wish to have a celebration of marriage this is their choice and the costs incurred are not set by us.
5. See point 4 above. There are a range of affordable options already available for a legal marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. If we lose the income from licensed premises and our attendance at weddings at these premises, due to full cost recover rules we would have no option but to increase the cost of registration office weddings in decommissioned rooms.
2. We don't believe that couples should be able to get married in any location without pre-approval of some kind.
3. Although couples who choose to get married in any location may not have to have a separate legally recognised wedding the costs of getting married are unlikely to be reduced as a trained, qualified officiant would have to attend to make the marriage legal and the location would have to be assessed at least once prior to the marriage to ensure it is safe and dignified. Venues that are not used regularly would incur additional costs for these pre-ceremony risk assessments that are required by law for any business or organisation operating legally within Health & Safety legislation.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Licensed venues that are already operating as public-facing businesses should already be complying with the simple legal regulations regarding planning and health & safety that are required as part of the licensing process. These are not direct costs of being licensed – we find a number of potential venues do not comply with Health & Safety rules, so the licensing process forces them to comply, and we fear that a deregulated marketplace would have the effect of making some of these venues disregard the regulations. The costs of becoming a licensed venue cover the administration and checks that these measures are in place, and ongoing support to the licensed venue from the Local Authority. The cost of being licensed is minimal in comparison to the potential income that venues can generate as a result.
2. The costs of registration officers attendance at a licensed venue are covered by the couple, not the licensed premises. We develop a relationship with our licensed venues and work well in partnership with them. We staff our provision according to demand and rarely turn away couples who want to book with us.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Safety checks would still need to be in place for any officiant to attend a venue.
2. If we were to lose a proportion of our income we would be unable to employ as many registrars in the service and this would have a negative impact on our availability.
3. The proposed scheme would give couples more choice according to their own wishes and beliefs

4. We do not agree that the proposed changes would increase the number of couples getting married in the long term, just the choice of where they marry and who can marry them.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Because of the unfunded free provision of birth and death services, most local authorities subsidise these services with income from marriages (albeit whether this is right or wrong – this is the reality of the status quo). Removing the monopoly on secular marriages from the registration service will inevitably lead to a significant reduction in the range of services offered by registration services.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If our previous suggestions are taken into account, local authorities would be able to charge full cost-recovery fees for services that are currently under-funded. We would also be able to conduct weddings outdoors, for which there has been growing demand, and be more flexible on ceremony content for those couples with mixed beliefs.

A far simpler solution to the whole proposal which would address the majority of couples' wishes would be to allow couples to marry anywhere within the footprint of licensed venues, including outdoors, and to allow the temporary licensing of venues or locations for one wedding. Retaining the monopoly of local authorities to provide civil marriages would ensure the ongoing quality and high training of staff, adherence to legislation and opportunities to spot sham and forced marriages.

If local authorities lose the monopoly on civil marriages then they should be granted an equal opportunity to charge on a profit-making basis, and should not be the only type of organisation required to only charge at cost recovery.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. None. We are required to follow the requirements of the country they are getting married in.
2. Longer waiting period applies but this is necessary and well publicised.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. This could potentially reduce the number of couples who travel abroad to get married but it seems unlikely as we don't have the climate that most of these couples are looking for.
2. There may possibly be a slight increase in people travelling the UK to get married from overseas, however it seems unlikely as in our experience most overseas nationals who choose to get married here do so because they either live here or are marrying a UK national. Again, we don't really have the climate to attract people to this country as a destination wedding.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Our costs will necessarily increase as we are forced to recoup lost income from those marriages we do manage to retain. Additionally, there seems to be no reference to the cost to local authorities of registering all of these marriages onto the electronic register once the ceremony has taken place. The Local Authority, and thus local tax-payers, should not have to subsidise the registration of marriage. A fee should be chargeable for the marriage to be entered into the electronic register payable to the local authority. Certificate sales will not cover the cost of this provision.
2. Won't change – just be shifted
3. No comment

4. No comment

5. Costs will be forced to increase as local authorities' income reduces



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYT-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-16 15:46:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

no

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I experienced no legal barriers to having a ceremony which was very personal and meaningful and delivered by the local registration service.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have been involved in many weddings during Covid 19. Almost without exception they have been positive experiences under such difficult circumstances, carried out by an experienced and professional service which has been able to bring to bear it's many years of training and experience to ensure that weddings have complied with restrictions and yet couples have still had meaningful and moving ceremonies. We as a service have received many compliments on the overall handling of weddings during the pandemic, from booking to wedding day. I believe people have been glad to have a central point of contact to come to in this difficult time, and group of trained professionals to see to their needs. I have been involved also in several GRO's licence or 'deathbed' civil partnerships and weddings, all of which have been carried out with consummate professionalism for a very grateful couple. Overall, couples have simply been pleased that they have been able to get married, and that we have accommodated their wishes as far as restrictions have allowed.

I do believe that it has been very important that weddings have been kept within a single, central and regulated system as we have had many many couples or families who have tried to bend coronavirus restrictions and it has been important to have a single, determined framework to work within.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Proof of residency helps to reduce instances of fraud. Abolishing this requirement could lead to people marrying in England and Wales because out laws are easy, leading to a kind of 'wedding tourism' mirroring the 'health tourism' we already experience which again is dangerously open to instances of fraud.

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No. The documents required can be very complicated, particularly in the instance of those re-marrying (especially women who have changed their name), anyone who has changed their name or those British Citizens who were born after 1983 but do not have passports. Negotiating these documents via an online form seems a process that would be fraught with the potential for errors to be made and then if the in person interview is only a few days before authorities are needed, chances to correct errors are very small. In my experience, many people need in-person assistance to negotiate the system of notice, and simply coming in person to the registration office is not exactly a hardship.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

the current 28 days is sufficient. If errors or issues are discovered only 3 days before a proposed ceremony (and many couples do plan to marry on the first available date) then there is very little time to correct or re-arrange if necessary.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely not. Remote interview is subject to a shocking lack of safeguarding. We would have absolutely no way of knowing if the person on the screen is the same one as on the documents (given advances in technology that those looking to cheat the system wold be certain to exploit) or if there was anything occurring off-screen that could force a declaration of consent where it is not actually present. With no guarantee of a safe, private and secure interview, how could safeguarding be achieved?

If a second interview were called for, how would the registration service be able to guarantee that the same person is being spoken to? Many of our staff are part-time so it would not always be possible to guarantee the same registrar to do both interviews and online appearance can be altered. Again, fraud and safeguarding issues would be rife here.

Introducing this would make it far too easy for anyone wanting to trade in illicit weddings to proceed.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have several questions about this plan. Where online would the notices be displayed? A dedicated website? Who would manage this database? What would the requirements for 'expose to a risk of harm be' and how would it be assessed? How would notices be displayed in this case? Who would be responsible to managing risk of harm and how should risks be reported? How would data be protected from malicious intent? Once information is put onto the internet for public display, it is always available in some way and I fear it would be too easy for anyone wishing to cause issues and use data maliciously to do so.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. This has proven most helpful in times of emergency such as the Covid-19 pandemic as many couples have been able to rearrange without having to give notice again.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No. This could lead to a huge amount of last-minute re-issuing of paperwork and most registration offices are not open on weekends when this burden would occur. Chaos could be caused. Working rotas via the registration service need to be flexible and responsive to the needs of couples and of staff, often changing last moment, and this flexibility should not be sacrificed, as has been evidenced by the constant barrage of changes during this pandemic. Perhaps if organisations providing the officiant were named instead?

It must be acknowledged that persons conducting weddings are people too with their own needs and asking them to commit to shifts regularly a year in advance is a very unfair burden which may prevent them making decisions for their own lives.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would worry me in the case of independent officiants. How would couples have any guarantee that these officiants have training and experience and are ready to conduct ceremonies? I believe this could open up instances of marriage fraud.

Please share your views below:

Which circumstances would be acceptable? This could constitute a very harsh regulation of people's working lives.

I do not believe that independent officiants are suitable for the job of conducting legal ceremonies for instances such as this. surely a robust service with a bank of trained staff would be a much more reliable way to obtain a legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All preliminaries should be civil

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All preliminaries should be civil

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

All preliminaries should be civil

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

All preliminaries should be civil

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

All preliminaries should be civil

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries. Church and state should be separate in the case of legal status.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious belief or non-religious belief weddings should only be conducted by officiants linked to those beliefs.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No. Two staff are needed for safety and quality.

Weddings can be very emotional and fraught settings with lots going on. A registration officer is responsible for their own safety, for the safety of guests and for the correct legal procedure being followed during the ceremony and for the effective, friendly and meaningful delivery of a ceremony service. This is a lot to expect of one person within a short time. Mistakes could easily be made and two pairs of eyes are much better than one. Lone working can also be dangerous, particularly in cases where officers are travelling between weddings and may get delayed, or are carrying money and legal documents.

For the safety of the registration officers and the security of the legal process for a valid marriage, two should be required to attend by law, so that the cost of this can be captured in the fee to the wedding couple. Fees for registration officers to attend at an approved premise are minor compared to the fees charged by the approved premise for hosting the wedding and cost cutting at this point could endanger staff and the legality of ceremonies.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They must be trained and assessed as officiants regardless of their other status.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Official organisations should be responsible for appointing officiants to ensure that standards are met.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Sports clubs

Fan clubs e.g. Star Wars fans or anything based on known fictional source material.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 seems like a very small number.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe independent officiants are a good idea, but if they are authorised then they must be registered and regulated.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No. I believe external, civil, assessment should be in place as for independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that independent officiants should be allowed, but if they are then they must be regulated as above.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I absolutely agree that they should not be able to act in such a manner as to cause a conflict of interest but I do think that there should be set hourly/ceremony fees country-wide with additions only for travel or unsociable hours.

Allowing independent officiants to set their own fees opens the whole business of weddings up to crass and rampant commercialism as is seen currently in the funeral industry. Leaving weddings solely within the registrations service negates any risk of this.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Please note that this guidance is already received and out into place by the employees of the registration service. I am unsure as to why additional independent celebrants are also needed.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No.

An independent system of inspection and training would remove any danger of bias from nominating bodies who may have vested interests to continue using unsuitable officiants due to fees paid for registering/ links with the organisation/ societal pressure etc. All officiants should be subject to the same training and inspection.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe form and ceremony should be overseen by the nominating bodies or by GRO.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Religious incidental music or readings by guests not including the Anglican marriage service  
the presence of religious artifacts e.g. the chuppah or small icons

Nothing which requires the registration officer to deliver prayers/blessings or similar which may not reflect their expertise of beliefs.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No. Premises should be suitable for the dignity of the occasion and suitable for health and safety. The quantifier 'anywhere' raises many concerns for where might be chosen.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Premises should be fixed and assessable so that health and safety and dignity can be assured. Water/air venues would be highly weather dependent when it comes to safety and conditions could not be guaranteed. Similar concerns arise for the dignity of the occasion, how can anyone be married in a dignified way of a boat is being tossed about on waves, or strapped into a plane experiencing turbulence?

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that independent officiants who have been contracted for a service will be sufficiently motivated to apply proper standards to venues if doing so would prevent them from being paid. It seems ridiculous to allow someone employed directly by the wedding couple to assess the venue the couple wishes for and to expect them to be impartial about whether or not they declare it suitable. I also have doubts about the regulation of their fitness to assess such venues.

The registration service has strict, comprehensible and above all, unbiased, standards for all venues and officers who are employed and trained to see them put into practise. We work very hard to work to appropriate risk assessments and it is foolhardy to throw away all that wealth of knowledge and experience to 'independents' who may have neither.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that independent officiants should be allowed to assess venues (aside from immediate safety concerns on the day e.g. candles etc.) when whether or not they get paid could be dependent on saying that venue is suitable. Venues should be approved by an independent body e.g. the Registration Service, where an officer's pay is not linked to their performance of any particular ceremony.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No. Such guidance is already supplied to the venues themselves nowadays and still amendments have to be made on the day, which shows that such guidance is not infallible. I do not believe independent officiants should be making these assessments.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. This process should operate away from the officiants agreement, and be unbiased.

Please share your views below:

The registration service should be responsible as now. Couples should apply and an officer will inspect according to GRO guidance and issue approval / notices for change where necessary, then notify the officiant.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why should this be added after the ceremony? This information can easily be gathered at notice.

I do not agree that the location of the wedding should have no bearing on the marriage and as such it should be fixed.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other



Please expand on your answer:

No.

A wedding undertaken with no witnesses should not be valid.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The law as it stands works perfectly adequately for the weddings of those above. None of those weddings are easy things to organise but the registration service has systems in place which run efficiently already. these systems must be used if additional notice is to be required.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If schedules are being issued without waiting period on the grounds of terminal illness it seems unlikely that they would need to last for that period of time.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that authorities should be able to be extended. I do not agree that weddings or preliminaries should be able to take place remotely as I believe this removes many of the safeguarding measures which are essential to the process of ensuring identity and consent.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to the extension of authorities but no to the other proposed changes.

No

Please expand on your answer:

In cases such as the Coronavirus, every person is technically 'at risk of death' and so everyone would be able to marry regardless of any other factors. This surely increases transmission risk and encourages people to break restrictions for celebrations etc.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think people should be able to marry on board a ship

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think they should be allowed but if they are they must be regulated as every other officiant.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think they should be allowed but if they are same rules should apply as on land.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. I do not believe that the current law prevents people from getting married. Marriage is a booming industry which continues to rise. Essentially couples who want to be married will marry even if a ceremony cannot be exactly tailored to their requirements. We have seen this in the huge numbers of couples still marrying during this pandemic.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Register office weddings are available but those statutory (£46) slots are hardly ever taken up as couples do want to have larger weddings with more guests and at times convenient to them. The cost of marrying within a registration office outside a statutory ceremony is negligible and very good value for money considering the service and the quality of many registration office locations.
2. The cost of having registrars come to approved premises is absolutely miniscule compared to the cost of using those venues. One of the most popular venues I attend has a £15,000 minimum spend, against which the £450 for attendance of registrars (considering that this includes all preliminary work, the registration and a professionally delivered ceremony) is hardly worth mentioning. Costs are not prohibitive.
5. The necessity of having a separate, legally recognised wedding is easily facilitated within the registration service and many couples enjoy this. Again, costs are negligible compared to what most couples doing this are willing to pay out for their larger ceremony and it can be done any day of the week in a variety of lovely locations.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I do not think that this scheme will create any extra wedding slots above what we are already able to provide at the registration service. I do not agree that there is sufficient cost benefit to outweigh many of the negatives such as removing one registrar.
2. Couples will not experience savings, as venues will still need to either be pre-approved (for those frequently doing weddings) or will need an approval process which will surely incur a fee from an officiant. costs for these things will still be passed to couples as they are now. Independent officiants will not be doing risk assessments for free and I doubt they would share them with other officiants. Indeed, the need to assess each property each time could lead to higher fees as it will be a long and challenging process requiring experience and training. There will also be costs for travel and/or equipment which will surely be passed to the couple. Instead a system of approving more kinds of venues through the licensing system would ensure the costs could be split amongst more couples.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. The requirements are in place to preserve the dignity of marriage and all those attending. Businesses who are unable to comply may lose opportunities but that is because their venues are not suitable for purpose so I do not see this as an issue.
2. As I have said above, the cost of registration officers attendance at approved premises is negligible compared to the costs of hiring such premises.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. I do not see that this is a benefit
2. The introduction of a schedule system rather than a register system would be of benefit as it would ensure that more registration officers would be available at peak times of day which would allow venues and couples more flexibility as to their scheduling. However, it may lead to a huge surge in 'wedding season' bookings and prices, leaving venues without bookings at the other times of year and couples further out of pocket.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Benefits would include an expansion of the venues they are able to offer.

HOWEVER it is very important to note that the wedding side of local registration is the area which brings in most revenue and which allows for the covering of costs for other statutory services such as birth/death registration, citizenships, notice-taking, not to mention building maintenance and staff costs and reducing the income of the local authority by allowing independent celebrants to do the job of the registration service could have a devastating effect on these.

I also believe that by not keeping the entire marriage process in the hands of the registration service we open the local authority up to errors and mistakes which could invalidate marriages and create significant costs.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. local authorities could easily lose revenue under these proposals, from venue licensing and from the registration service.
2. I do not see that there is much benefit to businesses in these changes except for those who would be allowed to operate wedding venues.
5. It seems to me a very real possibility that the costs for couple would actually increase under these proposals, due to the lack of fee capping and the need for each venue to be assessed separately for each occasion.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDAD-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-16 15:48:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Guild of Cornish Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Cornwall

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Care would need to be taken to ensure that the person being interviewed on line was able to answer questions independently and was not being coerced or intimidated by someone just off camera.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes it should be

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would ensure far more people would be able to easily search for a couple intending to marry.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would put the officiant on a clear legal standing.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible requirement

Please share your views below:

- where the relationship between the couple and the officiant has broken down

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This would be so much easier for the couple and the public to understand

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Equality of opportunity and responsibility would dictate that everyone couple irrespective of how they choose to solemnise their marriage should be treated the same.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Equality of opportunity and responsibility would dictate that everyone couple irrespective of how they choose to solemnise their marriage should be treated the same for the legal civil preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This ensures freedom of expression regarding the ceremony content whilst ensuring that the legal aspects are covered.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples need to have choice - a clear choice that a Registration Office can only officiate at Civil Weddings is clear.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Brings this into line with other officiants



Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Trades Unions, Political Parties,

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow smaller belief organisations who may not have a recognised venue for services or worship to marry couples who share their beliefs.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

If they are larger organisations then yes, smaller organisations - perhaps those who in the Q25 category should be named

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this keeps clarity and control

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrants would fill in the gaps left by religious and non religious belief organisations and Registration led ceremonies. Currently the number of couples who are having a quick legal ceremony with Registration and then having an Independent Celebrant conduct a meaningful ceremony which can include and blend spiritual and religious elements are increasing exponentially. If these proposals go ahead with out allowing for Independent Celebrants then many couples will still be disadvantaged by having to choose between a religious or non religious belief ceremony or a civil ceremony with Registration as they will be unable to express their views through their ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should maintain the quality of officiant

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential to maintain quality of officiants.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These officiants are already remunerated by their organisations in the main.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is clear and transparent and couples will know that if they opt for a Independent Officiant that their ceremony is the focus for the Officiant.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Removes any conflict of interest

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious step and should be treated as such and not as a frivolous occasion

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will maintain standards

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, this will require guidance and "inspection" to ensure fairness

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, this will require guidance and "inspection" to ensure fairness

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, this will require guidance and "inspection" to ensure fairness - standards need to be agreed and shared to ensure transparency

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - CPD needs to be clearly defined to ensure compliance and is essential to ensure standards are kept up.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Schedule signing would need to be established as an essential element of all marriage ceremonies to ensure clarity that in any case of doubt that the couple have expressed consent somewhere in the ceremony, that doubt can be removed by the signing of the schedule.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives choice to the couple

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives equality for all couples. If a couple choose a religious ceremony they will understand that the rules of that religion applies.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an especially important relaxation for Independent Celebrants who often lead interfaith marriages taking elements from religion/s and create a new tradition of meaningful marriage for the couple.

Please share your views below:

Giving examples can be difficult as there will always be arguments to get around them. A set of basic principles may be a better alternative.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the robust legal preliminaries are in place

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples are already choosing various locations for a wedding celebration - the beach, moorland, their garden, this proposal would enable these ceremonies to be legal

Please share your views below:

Care would need to be taken to ensure safety - ie in the air, or under water, also maintenance of dignity needs to be considered on something like a fair ride.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this will enable more choice and couples would then be able to marry at home

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be clear and transparent.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants would be able to agree with the couple the venue for the marriage. Some officiants may be happy with a location that another was unable to access

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed but guidance would be welcomed on this - would a full risk assessment be required in each and every case? What constitutes "Dignified"? This would ensure fairness and equality

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who would pre-approve? At what cost, this could lead to a monopoly for the Registration Service if they were the pre-approval body. Who gains the benefit for this? Is it the couple or is it the venue?

Please share your views below:

if this did go ahead then

1. GRO should be responsible for it
2. they should have a list of those venues who hold over a certain number of weddings per year - ALL officiants who conduct a wedding at that venue should give feedback

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fairness and equality

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to training being available.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- I would state that witnesses to the marriage are important enough to render the marriage void

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

removes the necessity for intrusive questioning about consummation of the marriage

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

removes ambiguity

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The office of Officiant is a legal one and therefore should not be taken lightly

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Presently, it can be very difficult to get hold of Registration Services for a RGs license marriage - call centres etc can be difficult to circumvent. It is imperative that deathbed marriages can be expedited often at short notice.

Marriages of detainees would need to have the approval of the owner / governor of the institution, and capacity to marry confirmed. Housebound individuals should not be subject to any additional rules as the new proposals would allow them to marry at home.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration Officers must be available at all hours to be able to take the notice and this should be able to happen either at the persons home, hospital or hospice. Time is often of the essence in these situations. Waiting times must be waived at no cost to the couple, and authority for the wedding to take place immediately must be in place.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to my response above

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense and would allow for weddings to continue during a time of national emergency

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be very good for members of the armed forces who may be deployed.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

these need to be clearly defined

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not knowledgeable enough to comment on different types of vessel

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

It would be only fair and equal if weddings in international waters also had the choice for a religious or non-religious belief weddings

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be registered as soon as possible within an agreed timescale - could there be an interim electronic registration

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cost recovery - must be nationally set

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

These couples are often at a disadvantage financially at these times

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This fee should be nationally set and the civil wedding slots should be readily available

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be monitored to ensure fairness across the country

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be monitored to ensure fairness across the country

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be monitored to ensure fairness across the country

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be monitored to ensure fairness across the country

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be monitored to ensure fairness across the country

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cost recovery

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The perceived cost of a wedding puts some couples off, the relaxation of the rules regarding "where" a couple can marry may help some couples marry more cost effectively.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As an Independent Celebrant we have to ask our couples to have a separate legal ceremony at a Register Office before having our celebratory ceremony. This can put some couples off having the celebration that they want as they have to pay more, and they may want both legal and celebratory ceremony on the same day, and the Registration Officers may not be available. The availability of the statutory ceremony at the Register Office /Registration Office, varies immensely across the country, and often couples are "persuaded" not to have a Celebrant led ceremony but to have an Approved Venue marriage instead. Ceremony costs vary across the country, and it can be complex to work out what type of ceremony is which - in a Register Office, with 2/4/10 guests, with extra choice of music/readings, in an approved venue, legal ceremony separate to the celebration etc etc. All very confusing for couples.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

One ceremony covering everything the couple wants in the location that they want - this will save them money. Couples will not be forced to use venues that are licensed - instead they can choose options that suit their budget, village halls, private homes, the local pub/social club.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Approved venues may be worried that as they are no longer "approved" by the LA, that they may lose business, however, they still have substantial expertise in delivering the wedding day, so i think this fear is groundless. Registration Services will have a reduction in income as the license fee is more



than "cost recovery" in many instances. However they should recover some of this cost as only 1 officer will have to attend weddings, and without a physical register to take they will be able to book in more weddings.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Venues will be able to make the most of the entirety of their premises - outdoor areas will not require "summerhouses" to allow weddings to take place. There will be more choice for couples to have the officiant they want.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is cumbersome and difficult to interpret, the proposals give clarity and should enable local authorities to concentrate on their core activity.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Less bureaucracy

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

4. Independent Celebrants - We would be happy to pay a registration fee to enable us to marry couples legally, the benefits to our business would be immense. We already undertake CPD and this would be recognised. Our couples would be delighted that they only need to liaise with one officiant of their choosing.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDAJ-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-17 15:19:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No - thank you

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am a registrar and our team has continued to conduct and register marriages and CP's throughout the C-19 pandemic apart from the two lockdown periods.

Our weddings have been small and intimate always adhering to the government guidelines in terms of being covid safe.

Our team continues to received fabulous comments and feedback from couples who have been thrilled that we have been able to marry them despite any restrictions on guest numbers etc.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Residency letters are invariably written by members of the couple's family and registrars have no way of assessing them for providing true and accurate information.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree in principle but would need to know more details about the required process.

Couples quite often attend their appointments with incorrect paperwork. This factor will without a doubt increase if the couples do not speak to a member of the registration service during the booking process.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Unless the notice period is being abolished

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

What consideration is being given to check required documents?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

More information is required on this matter due to the protection of data

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Happy to keep this in line with the validity period of current marriage authorities

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Totally disagree. Too labour intensive and totally not required

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See firm NO to above question

Please share your views below:

The current system works well - please do not make changes for the sake of it.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have enough knowledge on this matter to comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have enough knowledge on this matter to comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I do not have enough knowledge on this matter to comment

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Clergy to comment on this matter as it concerns them and not registration staff

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Religious marriages should meet the same criteria for civil marriages. Keep the criteria simple so that the rules are followed in all cases

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What is the reason to suggest change here? Some clergy will want to get rid of the bans process and hand it over to registration teams - others will be happy to maintain the current processes

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No change here is required. Weddings are either attended by a registrar/Ceremony Officer or a religious leader. The system works well - please do not change it.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As per current legislation

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends entirely on whether the schedule system has been introduced and due consideration has to be given to any health and safety issues relating to the venue and expected wedding party/guests

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who wants to be married by an unqualified / unrecognised official? No one!

Please do not attempt to dumb down the current civil or religious roles within a marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

By expanding the list of people who can conduct a marriage ceremony you are in effect signing the redundancy notices to many registration employees.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There seems to be insufficient evidence to change the current legislation on who can conduct marriage ceremonies. Please do not try and fix a system that is not broken.

Please share your views below:

There seems to be insufficient evidence to change the current legislation on who can conduct marriage ceremonies. Please do not try and fix a system that is not broken.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that the changes you are suggesting are required. Where is the evidence that religious and civil weddings are not being completed correctly or that they are not meeting the needs of the majority of the UK population???

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

N/A as I do not agree change here is required

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

N/A as I do not agree change here is required

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A as I do not agree change here is required. Surely GRO has more than enough work already?  
Please stop trying to mend a system that is not broken.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A as I do not agree change here is required

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A as I do not agree change here is required

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The UK has a good supply of registrars, Ceremony Officers and religious officials to complete the total demand for marriage ceremonies.  
I do not agree change here is required

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

By asking the previous few questions - there is already doubt in the minds of the authors of this unrequired consultation paper that the vetting, training and monitoring of "anyone" who fancies conducting a marriage ceremony will be labour intensive and the lapsing of current standards will lead to many illegal ceremonies being conducted.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

By asking the previous few questions - there is already doubt in the minds of the authors of this unrequired consultation paper that the vetting, training and monitoring of "anyone" who fancies conducting a marriage ceremony will be labour intensive and the lapsing of current standards will lead to many illegal ceremonies being conducted.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

By asking the previous few questions - there is already doubt in the minds of the authors of this unrequired consultation paper that the vetting, training and monitoring of "anyone" who fancies conducting a marriage ceremony will be labour intensive and the lapsing of current standards will lead to many illegal ceremonies being conducted.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What? Please refer to the current standards being met by the teams of registration employees - which are gold standard!  
This paper is a backwards move and will lead to the dumbing down of a respected organisation - the Registration Service

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

GRO already do this to the Registration Service. There is no need to widen this team to outsiders who are untrained, unqualified and simply fancy helping their mates out on their big day.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If this consultation paper gets it's desired result and effectively destroys the registration service, the authors of the paper will be very busy vetting, training and monitoring the new officiants.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

By asking the previous few questions - there is already doubt in the minds of the authors of this unrequired consultation paper that the vetting, training and monitoring of "anyone" who fancies conducting a marriage ceremony will be labour intensive and the lapsing of current standards will lead to many illegal ceremonies being conducted.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

By asking the previous few questions - there is already doubt in the minds of the authors of this unrequired consultation paper that the vetting, training and monitoring of "anyone" who fancies conducting a marriage ceremony will be labour intensive and the lapsing of current standards will lead to many illegal ceremonies being conducted.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This consultation paper is ridiculous. The questions posed are ridiculous.  
May I ask - how many registrars were on the panel to raise the paper? I suspect none.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm running out of ways to say - please do not implement the proposed changes.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How is this vastly different to current legislation?

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a degree of standardisation to ensure that all ceremonies cover the legal aspects and provide the same quality standards

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This paper is suggesting so many reductions to the current processes and standards that it will reach a point where a marriage ceremony will be worthless in terms of legalities and status. Why should anyone marry?

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the main, couples choose either a religious or civil ceremony depending on their views and beliefs. Our registration team is very rarely approached with requests to include religious content.

Do you have sufficient evidence to warrant asking this question? If so, where is it?

Please share your views below:

In the main, couples choose either a religious or civil ceremony depending on their views and beliefs. Our registration team is very rarely approached with requests to include religious content.

Do you have sufficient evidence to warrant asking this question? If so, where is it?

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The current situation with the division between civil and religious ceremonies works well. If it didn't why is it that so many weddings are completed each year in the UK?

If the system was so broken that the level of change this paper proposes was actually being sought after, the media would have run with it long ago.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

To answer this the issue of having the option to raise an objection would have to be investigated thoroughly

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The question is too wide.

Health and safety issues would play a massive part in this matter. Who would regulate this?

Please share your views below:

My comments above referring to Health and Safety matters comes into play for this answer

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to attend a ceremony at any venue whether this be indoors or at an outside location if it has not passed certain health and safety and insurance standards

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other



Please expand on your answer:

I agree that more outdoor locations may be desirable to couples but these must be linked to an indoor setting to accommodate for inclement weather conditions

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not a qualified health and safety officer and I do not wish to spend my working days trudging off to far flung locations to agree that the venue, field, riverbank is totally unsuitable for a ceremony.

Who holds responsibility should a child fall in a river and drown?

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who advises approved premises currently?

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We already operate this system with our approved premises.

Please share your views below:

Please refer to the current licencing arrangements for approved premises as it works extremely well.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not complete it at the time of the ceremony when it is a witnessed occasion?

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I have no issue with this - there may be an extra cost for dual registrations that the couple would surely meet

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The introduction of IT for wedding ceremonies seems inevitable

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have never come up against a problem with RG's, housebound or detained weddings

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Totally disagree.

The current process is fit for purpose

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This question rather depends on the outcome of any revisions to the current notice period.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this is happening now - many couples arrange a marriage after hearing about a terminal illness diagnosis. They do not feel that a waiver is necessary and do not meet the requirements for an RG licence.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Housebound and detained require separate discussions.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would be open to debate this issue. Certainly C-19 has proved that there should be some leeway with the validity period for notices

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to see guidance on what constitutes an emergency situation

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This matter would require further debate but I can see merit in this being a situation for the armed forces and personnel on deployment

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not enough information provided on this matter. Health and safety matters spring to mind

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not enough information provided on this matter. Health and safety matters spring to mind

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not enough information provided on this matter. Health and safety matters spring to mind

Who pays for the registrar to be on a cruise?

Would the ceremony have to be conducted whilst the ship is in port? Otherwise, the captain would surely take the role of official?

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would be no different than stating the name of the land based venue

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would not want to be married by anyone other than the captain of the ship

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that captain's of vessels should provide the same quality and standard of ceremony adhering to the same legal requirements

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Goes without saying

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not aware of any demand

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A scanned copy could be sent to the registration service as a holding document to prove the ceremony took place.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I was under the impression that we already charge for housebound or detained notices

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Irrelevant of the reason for the marriage - fees should be standard

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current pricing system works and should be standard throughout the UK

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is not the role of a registrar or other official to vet a location for health and safety

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This falls in line with the current licence rule - once licenced checks are only made to the venue at agreed intervals

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to see a review into the various rates of pay for each registration district but this is no different for any job comparing its salary to the same job being performed in a different region

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current situation seems to work well

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An interesting concept that requires an answer once more information is known

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Being terminally ill does not mean that the person has no money to afford a marriage.

A terminal diagnosis does not mean imminent death. Why are we concentrating on the terminally ill? There are other types of illness and disability and we do not make specific rules for them

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with anyone other than registration service employees or approved people within religious settings to conduct ceremonies

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I work in a large registration team that spans a large county. To my knowledge the current law is not preventing couples getting married and most of the proposals within this consultation paper are not made based on refutable evidence that major changes are required

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I agree with the standardisation of costs within each district. It is a simple and effective mechanism and understood well by the couples wanting to marry.

I do not agree that this paper was required

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many of the proposals in this paper are not backed up with sufficient evidence that major change is required.

The number of marriages conducted per year may be reducing but this is not due to any restrictions on location or who can act as the official but more to do with the recent act passed to allow opposite sex civil partnerships. Whilst I agree on equality of legal status and rights there is no doubting that opposite sex CP's are on the rise therefore by default reducing the amount of marriages conducted

From a work volume point of view - registration services are seeing the same volumes of work - just with a different division on the types of ceremony performed

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

My team has no problem covering thousands of ceremonies per year. We have a mixed team of registrars, registration support officers and ceremony officers all covering the rota. It works well and I do not wish to see changes to it.

Many of the proposals within this paper may lead to registration service employees losing their jobs. Is this intentional? And I would like to ask at what cost? Vetting, training and monitoring other people to act as ceremony officials sounds like a very costly process and who will do this if you have decimated the registration service?

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think your proposals will lead to many problems in terms of health and safety, pricing wars, illegal ceremonies, job losses and a general downgrading to the usual wonderful event of getting married.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have not enjoyed this exercise at all and I am saddened to realise that the role of registrar may seriously be changed for good - and not for the better

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I cannot see many benefits within the proposal

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples will simply be confused

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please do not change the current system. It works well

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not know enough about this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not know enough about this

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I cannot comment any further. Sorry

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDAM-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-18 11:10:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council Registration service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not sure

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was legally married in England.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Feel that it has been unfair on weddings to restrict the numbers more severely than funerals.

Most of our couples give notice well in advance of their ceremony and so have had to complete notice again for a future date. It would have been much better for them if the length of the validity of licenses was extended to a 2 year period. This would also be effective in 'normal times' to allow couples who live overseas but are British and want to marry back home. For example if they live and work in Australia but most of their family remains in the UK, they often want to marry here but it becomes restrictive due to the required period of residence before notice and then having to wait the 28 day period before a ceremony. Often they cannot afford 2 trips in one year so a longer validity on the licence would assist them.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that this time restriction on residency shows that there is a commitment on the couples behalf, rather than doing this on a whim. It would also be easier for Sham couples to give notice without this restriction.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What would be the point of the person attending at a later date? Why would you not just see them once to complete the notice?

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Reducing the period of notice could put more pressure on other services. For example if there is a foreign divorce that needs to be authorised by GRO this could compromise the date.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is a good idea, but strict guidance would need to be in place to filter out those that would require face to face appointments. The guidance should be very specific and not open to individual register office interpretation.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

As long as the same protocols are in place in the other areas then I do not see any reason for not allowing this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The information would be easier for anyone to access rather than as it is at the minute and only displayed in our one central office. We do not have many customers visit our offices to view the notices.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



I do think there could be an exception for couples who live overseas but have family here and want to come back to marry and maybe extend this to 2 years.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that this would just lead to lots of amendments before the ceremony as you cannot predict sickness/family emergencies or life emergencies. It would be best not to have this information recorded prior to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would only be necessary if you had already decided to name the officiant on the schedule before the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion about this.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this means.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes I feel that this gives commitment to the ceremony in that area.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes I feel that this should continue.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This would take away any difference between the religious and civil ceremonies.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We need to maintain legal status and control for marriages and this would be a way of doing so.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers should be able to officiate at any legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree in a licensed venue this would work well as the venue would have staff to coordinate the guests. In a ceremony room or other location then this could prove troublesome with just one registrar trying to sort guests and the couple before the ceremony.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are trained for this.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Helps to make sure that correct procedures are followed by all.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion.

Please share your views below:

No opinion.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes as long as there is appropriate training.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential to have a full list of officiants for legal purposes.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To maintain a control and balance of this.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No use using anyone who is not going to follow the correct procedures and could potentially allow fraudulent ceremonies.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be checks and balances in place.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why would any couple want a non believer to conduct a ceremony for them?

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise why would we have any legal process in place.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To maintain uniformity.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should have to be authorised within a certain time after any training to make sure that they are acting according to the most up to date laws.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be lapsed if ongoing training records are not met.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be best if there was some wording that could be used across all types of ceremony for this.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should still be one uniform part for the legal terms.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Often this is a sticking point now between what each person considers to be religious and can be used in a ceremony. So removing this barrier would be a bonus.

Please share your views below:

Religious readings, music should be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why does this need to be removed?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think certain establishments should not be allowed, eg betting shops, casinos, strip clubs.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as notice information is viewable on line then objectors could us this rather than on the day.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be determined centrally.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local register office following the same procedure used for licensing venues now.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will be more up to date.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of any.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No just cruise ships.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No experience of this.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDAK-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-18 12:20:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a Humanist Celebrant Accredited by Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

When I married my husband we worked with a Humanist Celebrant, Accredited by the British Humanist Association (now Humanists UK), to create a unique, personal and meaningful ceremony. This was not a legal ceremony, so in addition, the day before, we had to take our parents as witnesses to our local Civic Centre, sign their book, and obtain our marriage certificate. But our wedding day, to which we invited our family and friends, was our Humanist ceremony, because it was unique to us.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am a Humanist Celebrant, so not yet able to take legal weddings. So I have taken 0 ceremonies during 2020 because the number of attendees is too small to warrant a personal celebratory wedding.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes that seems reasonable too

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes to this too

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is fair

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Do you mean a couple gives notice but does not set a wedding date? And that period before they do is the schedule? This is very unclear.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am not yet fully up to speed on what is the schedule. Certainly my couples book me well in advance. But what if I were taken ill near the day? They would need to be able to transfer to another of my Humanist UK colleagues. How would this happen please?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely.

Please share your views below:

There needs to be provision for this.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on Anglican weddings

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This seems fair

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What do you mean by "The other requirements of the ceremony"? And now I think the "schedule" means a Celebrant's register page for this wedding. Is that right?

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That makes sense

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems sensible

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think they do need to have undergone wedding training - providing this is part of their Holy Orders then yes.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All real Humanist Celebrants are trained and Accredited by Humanists UK. So then they can be said to be nominated by Humanist UK.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I like the first half but not the second of the above sentence. We are not a dogmatic or proselytizing religion, so no "teaching of how to live in conformity with a belief system" is necessary. If you are a good person, and live as part of humanity and the universe while caring about others, you are a humanist.

Religions have to teach how to live in conformity with their belief system, because no-one is born saying "Jesus is Lord" or refusing to eat cheeseburgers! But people who care about other people don't need to be trained to do this?

Please share your views below:

Humanists UK in England and Wales is the only (to my knowledge) non-religious belief organisation.

People such as the Moonies, Scientology, etc are religious. Maybe the acid test should be - Do you have to teach adherents how to live in conformity with the belief system? If so it is a religion! ie the beliefs are so unnatural or unreal that only teaching them will get them to stick!

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists UK does have some local groups who meet for philosophical discussions with secular and academic speakers. But this is hardly "worship or furtherance of our beliefs" because - as I keep saying - No teaching of how to live in conformity with a belief system is needed to be a humanist because it is natural and sensible and simply focused on caring for others.

So maybe a better wording of the first half would be: "At least 100 paid members, and a set of principles for living". This would avoid tiny "churches" of fanatics setting themselves up as a nationally recognised religion.

The second half is good, thank you.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes that seems fair. Though of course public policy on morality does change - eg in the past same-sex relationships were illegal, so maybe the possibility of what is immoral may be acknowledged that this can change?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I can only speak as a Humanist Accredited Celebrant - Humanists UK keeps a list of us - there is no other office, we are all named individuals.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this - if this is how it will work, that is fine.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a plethora of self-styled bodies - training organisations, individual celebrants as trainers, and just people who create their own website and advertise themselves as a celebrant. There is no central accreditation for these people, nor any way of checking they keep to a high standard as there is with the ongoing re-accreditation, CPD and Peer Review carried out by Humanists UK Celebrants.

Individuals do not have the ability to take legal ceremonies in Scotland or NI - why try and add too much into this legislation? Who would you suggest accredits these independents and how are those people to be funded?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists UK does not accredit just anyone - if they fail the training they are not Accredited. All Accredited Humanist Celebrants are therefore fit and proper to take legal weddings.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a plethora of self-styled bodies - training organisations, individual celebrants as trainers, and just people who create their own website and advertise themselves as a celebrant. There is no central accreditation for these people, nor any way of checking they keep to a high standard as there is with the ongoing re-accreditation, CPD and Peer Review carried out by Humanists UK Celebrants.

So who is to provide a standard set of mandatory training and CPD, and who is to pay for this? The number of individuals could grow exponentially - it is too costly for the country to let everyone in, so I recommend that only members of accepted groups - eg Humanists UK - be accepted as legal wedding Celebrants.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not! I wish you to delete all those words.

I and many of my Humanists UK Accredited colleagues entirely base our standard of living - and we are all educated professionals - on the provision of unique and personal wedding ceremonies to non-religious and thoughtful people. Our couples appreciate that unlike "your name here" style religious ceremonies - which can be 90% standard prayers, and require very little preparation time - ours take up to 30 hours of thought and creativity to put together for each and every couple.

And as I have repeatedly said - humanism does not require "teaching in the belief" because it is simple, natural and sensible - so that is why dogma does not feature in a humanist wedding, and we do not "promote humanism" as proselytizing religions promote themselves.

Those words are unnecessary and cruel. We are not salaried employees as Church priests may be, and we do need to pay our bills. We are sole traders - so yes we are all individual self-employed businesses.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see previous answers re the impossibility of "herding cats" in keeping every self-styled independent celebrant to a central quality standard. So do not legalise the infinitely large pool of independents.

Please also see the answer to the previous question. Every Humanists UK Accredited Celebrant charges a different fee to each other. Some provide more hours with the couple - including some counselling. Some are based in Brighton!!

So please do not try and make Humanists UK Accredited Celebrants have a standard - too low - charge, as this is impractical, impossible to police, and will demotivate us.

Please state for ALL celebrants that there should be no reasonable limit on the fee we charge for officiating at a wedding - let the market decide!

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I only agree to this if you take on board my recommendations:

Only those nominated by a recognised body should become legal celebrants.

Those celebrants should be allowed to set their own fee, providing this is at a reasonable level, in proportion to the work they put into each ceremony.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - all humanist weddings are meaningful and valued by the couple. Because they themselves have to think very hard about the wording of their own unique ceremony, I understand that the number of people divorcing after humanist weddings in Scotland is far fewer than for those who married in a "cookie cutter" religious wedding.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes please

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes that is what Humanists UK provides.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I trust this would not be needed, but of course if it is.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am very happy with this.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We seem to keep going for as long as we can speak well, write well, and have empathy with our couples!

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All Humanists UK Accredited Celebrants carry out measurable CPD every year.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We can all give you beautiful examples of past humanist wedding ceremonies, but they are by definition all different - there is no set ceremony. However they do all contain words - often written by the couple - where they promise that they do consent to marry each other. This can be extended to legally marrying each other, once humanist weddings become legal.

### Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes of course

### Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I understand that in 2013 some legislation was half-passed which could add "Humanists in accordance with their practices" to the above Anglicans, Jews and Quakers.

Please will you follow that through - then much of the complexities of your Commission report to enable Humanist UK Accredited Celebrants to become legal marriage officiants will be unnecessary!

### Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this

Please share your views below:

See above

### Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Let's please keep it simple!

### Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is logical, because a high proportion of humanist weddings take place in family gardens.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have taken wonderful ceremonies in family gardens, a dinner boat down the Thames, and the Wallace Collection! At least 70% of my ceremonies take place outdoors.



Please share your views below:

No limit so long as it is safe and meaningful to the couple.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this not covered above?

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have already stated - if a venue has meaning for a couple and is safe then that should be the only stipulation for a venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - I would not go anywhere I did not feel safe.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot "ensure" this is so. I can only agree or not agree to take a wedding at a venue. That is in no way accepting legal responsibility eg if a guest fell and broke a leg.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is good.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I assume this is all about Councils charging venues a lot of money to be "licensed" at present. As 90% of my humanist ceremonies over many years have all been in different venues chosen by each couple, this would not be relevant for me.

Please share your views below:

See above

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this is the standard wording that is fine.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no knowledge of what would happen in Wales. I suggest this is unnecessary in England?

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You mean rather than a couple signing a register / document in the ceremony? I am not sure, I quite like that part of the ceremony.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I know nothing about anyone having to opt in to same-sex marriage. I have been holding weddings for same sex couples for years - after all my ceremonies were not legal. personally I think all people who carry out marriages should take all marriages - if they are legal the person should not be allowed to opt out! See my previous answers re the need to teach the illogicality of religions!

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How on earth would you police this? If you cannot measure it the words are unnecessary to have in the legislation.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I assume this is all about so-called "common law" marriage. I also carry out funerals and hear first hand about all the complications when an unmarried man dies and his family, or same-sex partner, are left out of the funeral - or if he dies intestate.

The sooner this is publicised to be abolished the better.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I understand that a no-fault divorce is going to be legal, so this will no longer be needed.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe we could all be issued with a Certificate to Practice by the Registrar General?

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have not carried out these, but am very happy to do so. Is there a law about them? This needs to be publicised.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again please keep the legislation simple - especially for such couples.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Now you have me on the practical details of legal marriage. I sincerely trust this will all be explained to Humanists UK, and they will I am sure carry out training for us all on the ins and outs of legal weddings.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again I have no opinion on what is a schedule and how long it is valid - I trust this will all be in the legal marriage training.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sadly with COVID this is probably necessary.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again I have no opinion on this

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided it is with an Accredited wedding celebrant.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

See above.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have not had any. But I have carried out a wedding in a chateau in France, so I have no doubt it will be requested in the future!

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I charge a set fee for my ceremonies. This includes meeting the couple - maybe more than once, plus running a rehearsal. If I travel to their house that is in my fee. That is why all Humanist Celebrants' fees are different, and I do not want you to set any - too low? - fee for our ceremonies.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think that is up to the Celebrant and the couple. No central fees should be set - ever.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Especially for those couples who do not want any fuss.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I said earlier - I can only say if I am happy or not with a venue - I cannot be held legally to "ensure" it is safe.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that Councils can continue to charge venues to be "licensed". What would be the point?

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe we will not need them to do so any more!

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again what are they trying to sell? And please do delete any words about Humanist Celebrants not being a self-employed business! It does seem to be double standards.

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think that is up to the Celebrant and the couple. Though registration officers are presumably paid a salary by the Council - so who receives the fees for their presence?

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What fee and what assessment are you now proposing? If it is just nominated Accredited Humanists UK Celebrants this should not be necessary.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes - if you take Scotland as a model - enabling HSS humanist celebrants to take weddings has led to an uptake of marriage which is good for the economy and people's mental health.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Anything which keeps it both simple and reasonable for couples is a good thing.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe that 2021 will show a huge demand for weddings which could not happen in 2020 due to COVID. So enabling already trained and Accredited Humanists UK Celebrants to provide unique and personal legal weddings can help where otherwise Councils would be overwhelmed.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I am sure all venues will be happy to no longer need to pay for a licence.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am sure that local authorities will still have people wanting a simple Council wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no opinion on this.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have often married couples who live abroad. Could I now do this legally for them? That would need to be covered or not in the legislation.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have not costed this - let alone on Government's behalf! However provided we are allowed to charge our current fees, the cost to the couple should not be any more than at present.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHz-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-18 16:05:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey  
Registered Charity (No. 506094)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period may be preferred.

I represent an organization that does Buddhist Wedding blessing ceremonies - we usually talk through the ceremony at least a month before the actual date.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think remote interviews can be done, as long as a thorough ID check is done, in a similar way to the ID checks banks make on addresses.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is unnecessary and could expose people to unscrupulous advertising - i.e. automated web bots collecting information and using it for marketing campaigns.

In our own Buddhist order we would ask permission before publishing the fact a marriage has taken place.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with 1.

But am not sure about no 2. It would depend on the reasons. If they were purely practical i.e. dates of availability then fine, but if the person just didn't like a particular Buddhist priest then that doesn't seem right.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea, and would cope with any problems mentioned in Q11.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know enough to comment.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Don't know enough about the Anglican system to comment.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It seems that they should be able to do both.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that legal weddings should be the same whatever religions the couple follow.

So there should not be a distinction made in law between Anglican and non-Anglican wedding preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, no 1, and 2 are what we already do for Buddhist Marriage blessing ceremonies, usually some time before the actual ceremony and in person.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement that registration officers have to attend our place of worship (the Abbey) for a legal wedding to take place has been quite restrictive.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this fits in with the current structure of our Charity, and it's religious governing body, the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives.

#### Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

obviously political organisations

#### Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I consulted with the seniors in our community and there were some misgivings about the small number of members required.

A couple of people thought that it should be more than 20.

We also think the definition of members could be redefined to include those who come once or twice a year on meditation retreats for example, and stay in touch in other ways in the meantime.

The size of membership could be proven by such things as email mailing lists, and the number of attendees at religious ceremonies and retreats.

#### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If an organisation promotes unlawful purposes then it would probably lose charitable status and be already committing other criminal offences, so this may be unnecessary.

However, some care may need to be taken to prevent forced marriages.

#### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

We discussed this in our community, and we thought that all those called 'Preists' in our Buddhist Order, i.e. those certified as such, after doing 5 years minimum training in a monastery, should become officiants.

#### Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be written into the rules of the governing body of the organisation. We already have such rules stating the minimum requirements. There are also procedures in place to remove their status as priests if rules are broken.

#### Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is important. Weddings can be very expensive.

We practice the tradition of asking for a donation - so there are no set fees.

Other religions may need to cover travel and other costs but there should also be a means of allowing complaints should fees be excessive.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but they need to state what their fees are before any agreement is made.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on what that development was.

If the law or guidelines haven't changed, it would seem unnecessary to have to attend a course for example.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think things like the bodhisattva vows, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodhisattva\\_vow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodhisattva_vow) or three Refuges (taking Refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha) could be said at a civil weddings should the couple wish.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If its a religious ceremony, the location would need to be agreed with the officient.

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

As before, if it's a religious ceremony, the officient could veto any venue not fitting with the spirit of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

May be unnecessary - the religious venue owner would have the final say on whether the property can be used.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No 3 doesn't seem to be strictly necessary and some people do not know who both thier parents are.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but mistakes should be rectified where possible.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We haven't had any such requests.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It certainly discourages couples from having Buddhist marriages, as there are so few places of worship designated in this country where they can do it. So extra costs of travel and accommodation are involved.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We do know that couples and guests have had to pay a lot to stay at local hotels before coming to Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey for a wedding. Some relatives have not been able to come because of illness etc.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Changing the law would enable local temples of the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives with trained priests, to be officiants at weddings at that place. At the moment couples have to travel to Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey which is the only registered place of worship. We have a number of such OBC temples listed here: <https://obcon.org/temples-and-meditation-groups/uk-temple-locations/>

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDH6-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-19 12:07:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Trinity Baptist Church, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We wanted to marry in a location that was meaningful to us where we had both previously lived but had moved away from. One of us had to move back into the parish to fulfil residency requirements. This seemed absurd to us.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have not been able to attend the marriage within my extended family as numbers were restricted. I witnessed it online instead.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps there could be a looser obligation to state your connection to the place you wish to be married, hat is not to do with residence.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. Sham and forced marriages are too much of a danger to do this.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think so. We are one UK

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, online is more of a public display these days that register office noticeboards or banns. The site needs to be clear and searchable and easily found.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know the background or the consequences of this

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Get rid of banns entirely.

Anglican marriages should fall in line with others and names should be published by the same system as other marriages. Anglican churches shouldn't have special privileges or be in two-tier system.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No. Remove special privileges for Anglican weddings. Make them the same as other religious weddings and require licenses from civic authorities.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As above, I'd remove Anglican privilege and make them the same as other religious weddings.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All preliminaries should be the same, through civil offices.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is right way to go.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It depends. A registration officer could be present at a free church wedding to sign the legal documents - do you define that as officiating?

Weddings can be conducted by multiple people and I can see the situation where a registration officer is the legal officiant but the ceremony is led by a faith leader.

I'd like to break down the barrier between a civil and religious wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This happens anyway when a registrar attends our church to sign the papers when no authorized person is present.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am a Baptist minister and I think that would be clear within our tradition, though some would choose to opt out. I don't know if a register would have to be kept of those who qualify to be officiants but have decided they don't want to act as officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, though that will be difficult to do.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What do you mean by an organization? Do you include small independent church congregations of many years standing whose membership has fallen below 20 members? Would they lose the right to hold weddings with their own minister? That doesn't seem right. And how do you define 'members'? Many churches do not have membership as such. And do you count children? This definition sounds very suspect.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

That sounds okay, but those words could be used against some groups who have beliefs out of keeping with societal norms - eg some churches who reject gay marriage. Are they "contrary to public policy"? There has to be a way of wording this that allows for conscience of religious and other groups.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Baptist churches often function with lay leadership and the regulations should allow for a lay person to be nominated the officiant just as they can now be the authorised person. that is more important than nominating people by office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What about retired clergy and religious ministers? I can see many of these wanting to carry on as officiants after retiring from normal duties. It could be a good source of income for a retired clergy. They are still ordained but less regulated by their denominations. Do their church groups have to be responsible for them still, or do they operate as independent officiants? If they remain under the authority of their church this will involve a lot of admin for them.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, what about retired clergy?

And what about ministers who currently supplement their income from taking weddings? This could deprive them of income. What do you mean by "making a business?" In Baptist churches, often ministers are unpaid or bivocational (have two jobs). This could stop them doing this.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Setting up a competitive market-place? Don't know about this.

What defines a conflict of interest? Is this only pecuniary? Can an officiant still do a favour for a friend for nothing?

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As a Christian minister myself I'd be happy to have people with a spectrum of beliefs and none as officiants. The range of 'religions' and shades within them is so vast that to separate them out from the non-religious seems arbitrary.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Part of the purpose and tradition of the wedding is the public declaration of consent in front of witnesses and usually in front of family and friends. It would be a wrong step to lose this.

Consent can be given in different ways but I think it should be seen to be done and witnessed by others.

If marriage is formed before signing the documents, what happens if the documents are never signed? What is their function and purpose?

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does that apply without any limits or any provisions? it needs to include consent presumably, and be witnessed.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, to the first part, but as a Christian minister I would say that if there is prayer and worship then it is a 'religious' service. Why keep the distinction between the two? That is unnecessary in such wide-ranging changes.

Please share your views below:

Anything the couple chooses including prayers, laying-on of hands, taking bread and wine, singing worship hymns and songs, Bible readings, a sermon or similar talk.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does that mean you would prohibit a church service following a civil ceremony? How can you do that? Many couples want their civil marriage blessed in church, sometimes the same day. I wouldn't want that to be made illegal.

I suspect I don't understand this question.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I consider it in the nature of marriage that it should be public and open to witnesses, and those who might have objections.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think weddings should take place in a public place. Are we happy for officiants to marry couples in private in their own homes? I would say not.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

As above, not in private - the venue should be public and accessible so it can be witnessed by others.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

These days many churches meet in schools and homes and public buildings (as they always used to in Biblical times). Defining a 'religious venue' is next to impossible.

Also churches should have the option to allow non-faith weddings in their buildings if they choose - why should they not be allowed to use their venues the way other public building could?

I would banish all distinction in law between religious and non-religious weddings, anyway.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But within limits, and with supervision. This is a heavy responsibility to give to an individual and will result in couple shopping around to find an officiant who will agree to the venue of their choice.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should be listed and monitored by local authorities.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences



Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would retain the witnesses.

And I would require registration, so that paperwork can be produced to document a legal marriage .

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know what it would be replaced with. If lack of consent can be shown, then the marriage is invalid anyway.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, I wouldn't want this. Where cruise ships are registered is arbitrary.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, the law should not be stretched to international waters.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't agree with marriage international waters.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The outlined proposals should make getting married easier and increase the number of marriages.

This will be of benefit to wider society and family life.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Most couples I deal with in the church setting consider the church fees to be a small proportion of the cost of the wedding which they usually calculate to include catering, the dress, the honeymoon and many other expenses.

The costs of the actual wedding ceremony are not themselves prohibitive, it is the expectations around them the ceremony that make weddings expensive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDSF-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-19 14:40:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is an outdated requirement of little value in identifying where legal objections should be raised

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Notice should be given in person from the start and not begun on-line or by post. This interview is essential for ensuring that the person is entering into the marriage of their own free will and that they have the capacity to marry. The length of the interview gives the Registrar time to identify any safeguarding concerns. If this interview is shortened by starting the process on-line or by post, this reduces the time a Registrar has of assessing an individual for concerns or giving that individual a safe space to say they are being forced or coerced into the marriage or that they don't understand what marriage is. Individuals only get married once - or that's generally the plan. Taking 20 minutes to give notice in person is not a massive inconvenience given it's once in a lifetime, yet that time could make all the difference in protecting a vulnerable person from harm.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I think it should be at least 14 days as a reasonable cooling off period for the individuals giving notice to really think through the decision and be sure it's the right one and a reasonable amount of time for objections to be raised. We've all done things and regretted them a week later but a fortnight's reflection seems right for a person to declare in person at notice interview that they want to marry someone else and then feel really sure it's the right decision 14 days later.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews are a terrible idea. If a vulnerable person is being forced into a marriage then their abuser will be just off screen or the other side of the camera watching and coaching the vulnerable person's responses. Where is the safe space here? It's hard enough to identify issues in person without the abuser there. Registrars aren't social workers. How will concerns arise exactly without that private individual interview between a single party to the marriage and the Registrar? We may all have got used to tech solutions, especially during the pandemic but marriage is a serious legal commitment which should not be entered into lightly. Making things more convenient for the average couple in this way would be a gift to abusers - it's not worth the risk when all is being asked of couples is to take 20 minutes each to give notice in person. The benefit of convenience does not outweigh the risk of harm to a vulnerable person.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - the local notice boards are outdated and ineffective. A national on-line notice board would be far more effective in these modern times.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a reasonable validity time for couples to marry within this time.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a terrible idea. What if the officiant is sick or unavailable at the last minute? A qualified person should be able to step in at the last minute without changes to the paperwork by Registrars being made - what if the wedding's on a Sunday and the officiant is sick and there's a substitute available but the Registrar's are unable to amend the schedule? Naming an officiant - especially if paperwork is valid for a year - is unnecessarily risky. Currently the venue is named and either Registrars or Vicars etc officiate. This is a good system as any number of Registrars or religious celebrants are able to use the

paperwork.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, even if the named officiant has a named substitute officiant this is unnecessarily limiting. So only 2 people could conduct the wedding - compare this with now where teams of multiple Registrars are able to conduct - there could be a crisis, like say a global pandemic, 10 Registrars may get knocked out but there'll still be 20+ to take over at the last minute. The flexibility of the current system in who officiates is far less risky and it works.

Please share your views below:

I think naming officiants generally is a terrible idea. The couple are marrying each other not the celebrant. If they want to get married according to certain religious rites or if they want a secular ceremony that's one thing but being able to select a specific individual actually allows for discrimination - what if they want to request a man? Or someone white? Because they want a certain 'look' for their photos. Gross.

#### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I personally think all couples marrying in England & Wales should have to go through the notice process with trained Registrars. The clergy can run their marriage classes but Registrars should take individual notices to ensure documents are in order and to identify any safeguarding concerns. From reading the press it certainly seems the majority of sham marriages have taken place in CofE churches and is there any wonder why when the clergy could be seen as a soft target compared to trained Registrars.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As above - both of the couple to attend in person, individually to give notice to registrars.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

See above

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This happens now and is a good working system - though it's currently 2 Registrars or a Vicar plus Authorised Person or Vicar plus Registrar. Two heads are better than one. Two people assessing a couple for signs of distress or lack of capacity is better than one person checking two people for this. Two people can work as a team when signs are seen in protecting a vulnerable person or taking the time to further assess capacity. The responsibility on two sets of shoulders is less onerous than on one person and gives each person the confidence and support to act when necessary.

#### Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It seems a bit ridiculous that civil ceremonies can't include any religious references at all. If a couple could have a civil ceremony that includes a prayer or hymn for a departed loved one for example, that would be a mix some couples would appreciate and why shouldn't a registration officer officiate this? Registration Officers should not be able to officiate full on religious services but they should be able to conduct more mixed services than they're currently permitted to do.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO. NO. NO. Two heads are better than one. Two people assessing a couple for signs of distress or lack of capacity is better than one person checking two people for this. Two people can work as a team when signs are seen in protecting a vulnerable person or taking the time to further assess capacity. The responsibility on two sets of shoulders is less onerous than on one person and gives each person the confidence and support to act when necessary.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe representatives of non-religious belief organisations should be permitted to officiate at weddings without the support of a trained Registrar. Perhaps like now when a church doesn't hold its own register but a couple wish to marry in that church, a registrar could attend to do the legal paperwork but the non-religious belief celebrant conducts. That said, non-religious belief systems are different to religion. Registrars who do not profess that religion should not be conducting full religious ceremonies, but why not non-religious belief ceremonies? Non-religious belief systems are different - Humanism for example is essentially a secular belief system and Registrars have been providing a secular civil service since 1836 - it would be easy for them to offer a genuine humanist ceremony and for that ceremony to continue to be regulated properly. Registration officers are trained to officiate, register, look out for safeguarding concerns, are regulated by GRO and are employed by local councils. Registrars should be given more freedom to include content in their ceremonies which allows for some religious references and/or is tailored to a non-religious belief system the couple may have. Marriage is serious. It is a legal commitment for life. It has consequences for the parties involved. It is not just about the wedding but about the marriage. If a couple want a ceremony tailored to their belief system the answer is not to open up the ability to officiate to more people. The answer is to empower the people who are already offering the service to give the couple what they want within the service.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How exactly will this be regulated? I believe it will open the floodgates for abuse. As above, I do not believe representatives of non-religious belief organisations should be permitted to officiate at weddings without the support of a trained Registrar. Perhaps like now when a church doesn't hold its own register but a couple wish to marry in that church, a registrar could attend to do the legal paperwork but the non-religious belief celebrant conducts. That said, non-religious belief systems are different to religion. Registrars who do not profess that religion should not be conducting full religious ceremonies, but why not non-religious belief ceremonies? Non-religious belief systems are different - Humanism for example is essentially a secular belief system and Registrars have been providing a secular civil service since 1836 - it would be easy for them to offer a genuine humanist ceremony and for that ceremony to continue to be regulated properly. Registration officers are trained to officiate, register, look out for safeguarding concerns, are regulated by GRO and are employed by local councils. Registrars should be given more freedom to include content in their ceremonies which allows for some religious references and/or is tailored to a non-religious belief system the couple may have. Marriage is serious. It is a legal commitment for life. It has consequences for the parties involved. It is not just about the wedding but about the marriage. If a couple want a ceremony tailored to their belief system the answer is not to open up the ability to officiate to more people. The answer is to empower the people who are already offering the service to give the couple what they want within the service.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiant is being paid directly by the couple, how can there not be a conflict of interest? Their impartiality goes out the window if there is an issue of concern because then they won't get paid.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors and public access provide the last opportunity for valid objections to be raised - taking this away denies that important opportunity.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The venue should be seemly and dignified and appropriate for the nature of the legal contract. It should be a safe place for family groups to congregate. All new areas should require risk assessment. To say couples can marry 'anywhere' is a terrible idea. They should be able to concentrate on what's

happening and not battling weather conditions or noise or hazards. You wouldn't sign any other kind of legal contract on a ferris wheel or up a tree or swimming in a lake. The current system of licensed venues is a good one - their outdoor areas could be licenced with the option of moving the ceremony indoors if the weather conditions aren't fitting. Marriage is serious and should not be treated like a piece of theatre.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoor areas should be attached to an indoor venue where the ceremony can be moved if weather conditions are too poor to continue.

Water and legal documents don't mix - it belittles the nature of the legal agreement.

In the air or in private homes would be not accessible to the public for objections to be raised.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is important for raising objections

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be regulated by Registrars / GRO

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes and no - officiant / Registrar to ensure this on the day but overall responsibility of council / Registrars / GRO

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

council as per current licensing arrangement

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Location should be on there already - licensed

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are crucial! They also act in a semi-safeguarding capacity to ensure the parties to the marriage are willing.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law does not discourage or prevent couples from getting married but the system could be improved by giving civil Registrars the authority to tailor their services to each couple - allowing the addition of some religious or non-religious belief based content. The current rules should also be loosened to allow outdoor ceremonies when the outdoor space is attached to a licenced venue as a suitable alternative if the outdoor ceremony is unable to go ahead due to our country's changeable weather.

Registration officers are trained to officiate, register, look out for safeguarding concerns, are regulated by GRO and are employed by local councils. Give

them, the experts, more freedom to include content in their ceremonies which allows for some religious references and/or is tailored to a non-religious belief system the couple may have. Marriage is serious. It is a legal commitment for life. It has consequences for the parties involved. It is not just about the wedding but about the marriage. If a couple want a ceremony tailored to their belief system the answer is not to open up the ability to officiate to more people. The answer is to empower the people who are already offering the service to give the couple what they want within the service.

Your provisional proposals fill me with fear for vulnerable people being taken advantage of by abusers to marry against their will or without their capacity to give a real consent. I have concerns that new officiants acting on their own will not be impartial because they are employed for their services by the couple.

Give Registrars who are truly independent more power to tailor the current civil offering and allow outdoor ceremonies when attached to a building and yes I believe more couples will choose to marry.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples can still marry for £46 at a Register Office - no-one can say that this price alone has put off some couples from marrying. Registration offices are generally open 7 days a week with availability every day dependent upon other bookings offering a range of ceremony price points depending upon the type of ceremony chosen. If couples choose to marry at an Approved Premises then of course by the exclusivity of this it will cost more, that's their choice.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDU8-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-19 15:31:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I am currently prevented from marrying my fiancé as he is transgender, and is having to go through the lengthy process of obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate before we can marry. The government promised to review this process and then ignored the outcome of their own consultation.

Consultation Question 3:



Please share your views below:

The weddings I was due to preside at this year have all been postponed until next year.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This and the previous question should give greater flexibility to couples who choose to marry away from where they are currently living, eg. near parents or where they met.

It would also improve access for those with mobility issues.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If lockdowns and concerns about pandemics are becoming the norm, this would be a sensible provision. It would also improve access for those with mobility issues.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

no idea on this one

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Displaying them physically is archaic and pointless.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

With the agreement of the original officiant, yes.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be abandoned entirely. As an Anglican priest I find them cumbersome and archaic, and it seems absurd to me that they continue to be a part of the legal process of marriage. It would relieve pressure on clergy and couples to abandon them and for all marriages to be authorised via a civil rather than ecclesiastical system.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I had no idea that such rules existed.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

See q.13 above - Banns should be abolished.

However if they are to be continued, they should be read in the church(es) where the couple live, and where there is an outside chance of someone hearing them actually knowing who they are.

As a [REDACTED] chaplain (with a chapel authorised for reading banns) almost all the couples I marry are [REDACTED] who rarely live in the area and are not known to my current congregation of staff and students. Reading banns is archaic and serves no purpose whatsoever in revealing impediments to marriage.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. I ask to see proof of identity (eg passports) but I have no training or ability to recognize a good forgery - let alone other document with which I am less familiar (eg. divorce papers). No clergy do, unless they happen to have a relevant former or second profession. This is further reason why clergy are not qualified to be determining whether or not a marriage is legal, and should not be required to be responsible for it.

2. Most clergy have sufficient pastoral sensitivity to detect if one partner is unwilling or not understanding what is taking place. If I suspected this, I would take appropriate action. In 20 years of taking weddings I have never felt the need to do so, so I think that requiring a separate meeting is unnecessary and time-consuming burden. It would probably become a token gesture, such as asking each partner to leave the room for a few moments, rather than an indepth interview.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Sounds sensible to me.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Civil preliminaries would do away with the need for clergy (with little training and no legal expertise) to be expected to manage a potentially complex and certainly important legal process. This should definitely happen.

I know clergy who have made errors that have affected the legality of the wedding they were presiding at. It's a state matter and it's absurd that we are entrusted with this.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be much less of a distinction between civil and religious marriages. The legal aspect should be - indeed it always has been - a civil matter, not a religious one. The form of the service (eg. whether it's religious or not) should not dictate the legal process by which the marriage is formed.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure. Personally I would be glad to be relieved of the legal responsibilities in taking wedding services but other clergy may disagree.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about this. There is no "one size fits all" for religious groups - for example, people often assume that an Imam in a mosque is the equivalent of a vicar in a church, but the roles are very different - the former is primarily a teaching role, the latter is primarily pastoral. Some religious groups have a "relevant governing authority" equivalent to a national church but others do not. If these people are being entrusted with the legal aspects of overseeing weddings it is important that they are both trained and accountable in their roles. So this proposal would need extremely careful application and would be very complex in practice.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Hmm. Any such list would inevitably be partial. I think treating organisations on a case-by-case basis would be safer.

I'd like to suggest that any group that defines itself and its aims in a way that breaches the Equality Act should not be included - such as White supremacists. However this would probably exclude many churches, including my own, on the grounds of our institutional homophobia - so it may not be practical.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Twenty seems an extremely small number to me. It would not be hard to gather twenty people who share a belief in something utterly ludicrous that could bring the system into disrepute. Furthermore, how would a group of twenty be able to train and hold accountable an officiant?

Not every fringe belief system needs to be able to conduct its own weddings - what is needed is the ability for civil celebrants to work alongside leaders of religious or non-religious belief groups to create a service that is legally valid and reflects the values and beliefs of the couple.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Well... yes. Shouldn't this go without saying?

Although I repeat the issue I raised in q24 above regarding churches and institutional homophobia - personally I would be absolutely delighted to see churches lose our exemption to the Equality Act and be required to treat people equally regardless of gender or sexual orientation, including in offering weddings. However I think it's unlikely to happen any time soon.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This may be appropriate but would require careful monitoring, especially if a group as small as twenty is allowed to nominate an officiant. A group that small can shift and evolve in its beliefs very quickly, and change leaders rapidly. If whoever happens to be leading it at any given time is seen as an office holder and therefore has the right to be an officiant this could result in some highly unsuitable people becoming officiants.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if there is some means of determining their suitability, and an expectation that they are in some way trained and held accountable. Otherwise this degenerates into the situation that seems to apply in the US, where people can "get ordained on the internet" and immediately preside at a wedding.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not if groups as small as 20 are allowed to nominate someone. There needs to be greater accountability than such a small group.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential. It would have helped if you had asked this question before q.29.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's reasonable for faith organisations to be able to cover their costs involved in supplying someone to officiate at a wedding, particularly if that officiant is a full-time employee of the organisation paid for by them (eg a church minister). But people officiating at weddings in their capacity as a representative of a faith organisation shouldn't be profiteering from that.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds reasonable but I am not sure what this looks like in practice in a world in which people can already get married while dressed as characters from Star Wars.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is fine with large/national organisations, but is unlikely to work in practice if a group of 20 can nominate an officiant. Some level of outside scrutiny would also be important.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable in principle but it depends on the regularity and nature of the professional development. Is this specifically training in relation to taking weddings, or does it refer to generally seeking to remain up-to-date with good practice in relation to their calling? The latter should be sufficient if the authorising body take responsibility for ensuring that all its officiants are kept informed of any changes in relation to the law.

Some Church of England clergy take upwards of a hundred weddings a year and are naturally very well versed in the legalities of doing so. It would not be reasonable to expect them to attend a "How to take a wedding" course every year in order to avoid losing their authorisation.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This implies that, other than expressing consent in some form, there would be no required structure or pattern, and no expectation that the service should include vows. That seems unhelpful and strange to me. A wedding service should at minimum include recognition that marriage is a solemn and (in intention) life-long contract, and involve vows between the couple that express that.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some people of faith are unable to have a religious service -for example many same-sex couples and sometimes divorcees. I believe that practicing members of any faith that refuses to marry them should be free to arrange a civil ceremony that reflects their beliefs. For that reason I think civil ceremonies should be free to include and all religious content desired by the couple.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

A wedding should be conducted with appropriate seriousness and where the situation doesn't overwhelm or overly distract from the importance of the vows being taken. It is hard to imagine a situation in midair where this would be the case - allowing it would logically permit weddings taken during a parachute jump for example.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it has been established beforehand that there are no legal impediments to the marriage then there is no need for them to be accessible to the public.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Yes

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1) Those responsible for religious venues should have the right to decline to accommodate a non-religious wedding. As the [REDACTED] of a pretty country church, I can well imagine couples wanting to use it as a picturesque background without having to have a religious ceremony, but churches do not exist for this purpose and it could easily be burdensome and a nuisance for some churches and clergy. However as long as this protection exists I do not think the law needs to prohibit such services. I can imagine there being pastoral reasons for agreeing to such a ceremony - for example, two people of different faiths might choose a civil wedding, but still prefer for to take place in a religious venue. As a [REDACTED] I would be willing to consider such a proposal.

2) Yes, definitely. People shouldn't be restricted in their choice of venue simply because they want to mention God in the service. Again, this could be particularly helpful to couples of different faiths.

3) It is hard to imagine why it would be necessary to prohibit this. Why would someone with a non-religious belief system choose to be married in a religious setting? But as in 1) above, as long as the venue has the right to decline to host a wedding I see no need to make it illegal.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is clear guidance on what constitutes an appropriate location to depersonalise the decision. If it is simply left to the officiant they could come under considerable pressure from the couple to act against their better judgement.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See 51 above.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would simplify the process for officiants. Also, if a location applied for pre-approval and was declined, the reasons for this should be made available to officiants.

Please share your views below:

Whoever is currently responsible (I assume the GRO)? And it should work in a similar way to the current guidance with obviously a much greater range of possibilities.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No idea what this means.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely for 3 and 4 the knowledge of either party (rather than both) should be sufficient to render the marriage void?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 3 sound fine. I understand witnesses to be a legal requirement so it seems odd to say that a marriage is not void (ie is legal) without them. Witnesses should either be a requirement or not.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand what a "non-qualifying ceremony" means if it is different from a marriage being void.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I really don't know what this is intended to achieve. I guess it should be possible to consider a marriage to be valid even if the couple choose to live separately. However this does seem to make life easier for people marrying solely for immigration status etc.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I had no idea that such a presumption existed or what purpose it might serve. Most couples should be able to produce documentary evidence that they have been legally married. However provision should be made for couples who are unable to prove their marital status to still be accepted as married - for example refugees/asylum seekers who were married overseas.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have limited knowledge of the current law so cannot helpfully comment.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the person is able to meaningfully consent I don't see why they should be treated differently from anyone else wishing to be married. Also, how could a legal definition of a terminal illness be formed?

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not certain what this means but anything that simplifies the process is likely to be good.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know what this is intended to achieve. And what is the legal definition of a terminal illness?

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



I don't know what this is intended to achieve.

#### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current experience of lockdown has shown that there may be extreme circumstances 3 and 4 may be necessary - but I think it should only occur in extremis and for urgent reasons. The possibility of abuse is otherwise too great - eg. it would be harder for the celebrant to be certain that both parties understood and consented to the marriage they are not physically present.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't feel qualified to comment.

#### Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

It seems to me that if a religious/belief-based wedding is important to the couple then they should probably prioritise that over choosing to get married on a cruise ship, but I guess if the ship had -for example - a chapel or prayer room on board that might be a suitable venue.

#### Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Someone who is housebound or detained may also be of limited means, and should not be burdened with an additional charge for circumstances beyond their control.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither. Wedding fees nationally should be set at a level that allows for such small and unusual variations to be included at no additional fee.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the case for venues such as places of worship which do not intend to host weddings as a business. However venues that are seeking to make money out of hosting weddings (hotels, stately homes etc) could reasonably be expected to pay a higher fee, which might be used to offset the costs discussed in questions 75 and 76.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a nice gesture but again I am puzzled by the legal definition of "terminally ill". If there is capacity in the system for some weddings to take place with a reduced fee or no fee at all, this should be available on a means tested basis. Some terminally ill people may be perfectly able to pay a fee, and many other couples may struggle to do so.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think many couples choose not to be married because of the current law; however many, many couples are prevented from having the kind of wedding that they would choose, and this is an issue of justice that deserves addressing.

I have presided at a thanksgiving service following the civil wedding of a same sex couple who are both committed Christians. They were unable to have any reference to God in their wedding service because it was a civil wedding. I was hampered in what I was able to offer them in the thanksgiving service because of the church's institutional homophobia - eg. I have to refer to it as a "thanksgiving" and not a "blessing" because the church does not permit me to speak words of blessing over a same-sex couple.

I know of many other couples facing similar restrictions who would greatly benefit from these proposed changes.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I know little on this subject beyond the fact that the church part of a church wedding typically costs less than just about any other aspect of the day.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Anything that makes it easier to marry on a limited budget is a good thing and an issue of justice and inclusivity. However I know little about current costs and so can't make an informed comment on this.

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No thoughts on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Greater flexibility will benefit all involved, however I am more concerned with the couples than the venues.

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No thoughts on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No thoughts on this.

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No thoughts on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No thoughts on this.

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No thoughts on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No thoughts on this.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

If churches have fewer weddings (and less income) as a result of this then as a church minister I do not see that as a problem - we should not be funding our existence off the back of wedding couples who are only coming to us because of limited alternatives. If we offer a good service, people will still want to get married in our churches.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDH7-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-20 12:52:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

Registrar/Deputy Superintendent Registrar

What is your email address?

Email:

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

In addition to handling death registrations, weddings have put a great deal of pressure on the Registration Service  
Couples wanting to know if their weddings will be able to take place  
Venues calling to check on numbers allowed  
Couples wanting to reschedule weddings for a future date - expecting us to be able to predict when "things will be back to normal"  
Changing Government guidelines with minimum/no pre-warning  
Checking on authorities, to ensure that they are within timescale of revised wedding dates  
Re-doing Notices of Marriage that have expired, when if and where public are allowed into buildings that Register Offices share with other services  
Providing Covid secure premises for public to be seen  
Reducing option of weddings for terminally ill patients to take place at home, because of ensuring staff have protection needed and space required as per Covid guidance

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to give notice in any registration district - if they have the necessary proof of ID and address for checking

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This will not reduce the checking necessary when they come into a Registration office to complete the process

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Both the above options are limiting if there are further enquiries to be made, as well as providing the service with details of the marriage ceremony that they would like. The officiant needs this information to prepare, and prior preparation may be futile if the in-person interview gives light to discrepancies  
Thus delaying the ceremony, and upsetting the couple

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews open up more possibilities of sham/forced marriages and capacity to proceed undetected for longer

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This could be a good option, as long as the Registration service would have assurance that the notices were taken in bono fide conditions legally comparable to those agreed in England & Wales

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no guarantee of internet security, therefore notices should be displayed as currently. It also prevents couples being targeted by unsolicited service providers ( florists, caterers, wedding cars and celebrants etc )

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the schedule is valid for 12 months officiants can change /be unavailable  
It would be less time consuming and more practical for officiants not to be named as with current schedules

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Current practice allows for officiants to be allocated when availability known  
This practice should continue

Please share your views below:

Not clear what "other circumstances" are referred to in respect of wedding law

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If all couples attended a Register Office to complete the legal formalities this would not be an issue

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If all couples attended a Register Office to complete the legal formalities this would not be an issue

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If all couples attended a Register Office to complete the legal formalities this would not be an issue  
Couples have had to attend local Register Offices during lockdown when churches have not been open for banns to be read, or had sufficient time for them to be read  
Reading of banns when churches opened has been a formality rather than having the purpose for which they were originally intended, as congregations have been limited by Covid regulations. In addition the number of people attending church services in many areas is extremely small, thus once again echoing that the practice no longer serves the intended purpose.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree that Anglican clergy should see/check documentary evidence and meet each of the couple separately before banns are published

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree - as this would be in line with current registration practice

If all notices were given at a local registration office this would reduce the need for this and make production of the certificate seamless once the registration office had been notified that the ceremony had taken place

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Agree. If all notices were given at a local registration office this would reduce the need for this and make production of the certificate seamless once the registration office had been notified that the ceremony had taken place

Also see comments for response to Question 15

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree that registration officers should be able to officiate at civil weddings , not religious, but as the definition of civil weddings and the environments in which they can take place may alter with the wedding law consultation paper this is appropriate

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst it may seem a simple option for only one registration officer to attend to officiate at a civil wedding , if the certificate /registration is not being done at the same time as the ceremony itself, it is appropriate to have two of us to facilitate the event, Organisation of guests, bridal parties, crowd control, photographers, guests with differing physical abilities, guide dogs, wheel chairs, etc.

Venues are not all as accommodating as one might expect

Ceremonies need to be seen as efficient and flawless as possible to those in attendance and liaison, joint working between Registration and venue is paramount.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with definition given, but may need further expansion as identified in Question 26

Please share your views below:

Wary of lists - which need to be constantly updated, provide opportunity for organisations to invent themselves to circumvent the "rules"

Certainly agree with suggested disqualifications on page 23 of consultation paper - political parties, trade unions, sporting organisations

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree if religious organisations/non religious belief organisations who promote unlawful practices contrary to public policy or morality are excluded as identified in Question 26 below

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree with this, but concerned about the challenges that may be raised following high profile sex scandal cases that have been publicised from named religions Anglican ( Church of England) and Roman Catholic, that we are currently aware of

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:



As with comments above - need to proceed with caution, may be still offer to have a registration Officer attending to ensure that legal parameters are met as currently practiced with religious venues who do not have an Approved Person

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree that General Register Office should maintain the public list/register of all nominated officiants and ensure this is "live" and linked with the DBS system, as well as training profiles

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should maintain the public list/register of all independent officiants and ensure this is "live" and linked with the DBS system, as well as training profiles. There should be a charge for this service to independent officiants.

However if the Government agree to broadening the venues that can be used for ceremonies and religious / non -religious belief organizations are also included, independent officiants will no longer have a place.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree - but this does need to be co-ordinated and overseen by GRO as outlined in response to Question 29 above

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree - as per response to Question 29

There should be a fee for being on the list, any training they undertake and an annual fee to remain on the list with proof of continuous professional development.

They should be subject to unannounced ad hoc visits by GRO inspectors as undertaken with the registration service

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst I agree with this statement, it also needs to be considered alongside proposals if Government decides to expand the services that can be offered by independent officiants

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who will determine whether there has been a conflict of interest?

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hence the need for GRO to maintain a live register, that is constantly monitored

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No question of this - widening the possibility of venues and those who can officiate at ceremonies makes this paramount

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And enforce strict monitoring and supervision

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the first instance but needs to link accountability of that organisation to GRO

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally agree

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fully support

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See response to Questions 29/31

Authorisation may expire if do not comply with requirements of training/DBS certification/ live registration

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as legal wording included, documentation signed and witnessed at the time of the ceremony and the officiant has the power to stop the ceremony at any point they feel it is necessary to do so

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Currently Registrars have to check civil ceremonies for religious content  
Eg readings and music, which often require tracing back origins of content.  
It would be great to be able to agree to whatever is reasonably practicable within a ceremony

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would no longer seem necessary, but may possibly still be a couples choice

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This has been challenging as part of lockdown when weddings were permitted with limited guest numbers

Opportunities for dissent to marriages are provided for at least 28 days before the ceremony , and the majority of challenges are handled away from the ceremony itself

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

The law should not prohibit , but the person responsible for the venue should be able to make that decision

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiant is in charge of a religious venue this would need their approval  
For officiants who are not responsible for locations then there should be parameters on which venues /locations should be judged  
Perhaps venues/locations who wish to market their services for weddings could be requested to provide this information eg capacity, risk assessments,

health and safety features , accessibility etc

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See response to Question 51 above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance to officiants and venues

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would make it easier for officiants

Regular attendance at specific venues, allows Registrars to understand the logistics

Please share your views below:

As currently - local authority and venues working together

Regularly reviewed, with venues notifying authorities of any major alterations/changes before a review if necessary

It would be up to independent officiants if they wanted to undertake their own review of premises they have not worked in before

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should all be completed at the time of the wedding so that all parties confirm that it is accurate

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, although the option for Welsh only may raise an issue/ cost in the future if couples applying to a court outside Wales for a divorce

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration already happens for civil ceremonies and those ceremonies attended by a Registrar.

Electronic registration of all Church weddings would be significant progress as currently parties apply to the Register Office ( where the church is located) for copies of marriage certificates. Often this requires referring back to the church, as the register is still in use - 20 or so years later, because there have not been sufficient weddings at that venue to fill a register.

Ceremonies registered electronically provide easier access and speedier processing of requests

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Mistakes can have serious consequences subsequently  
Witnesses must be present to swear an event took place  
Documents normally require signing and dating to confirm legality  
Failure to Register the marriage could have serious repercussions for all parties concerned

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Parameters set which mean couple must access a Register Office to give Notice Of Marriage  
Speed of processing for those who are terminally ill - often it is getting the appropriate letter from an attending doctor, rather than the response from GRO for approval  
Housebound/Prison - may be a case for on line applications and processing NOM in person at a later date

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Evidence from medical practitioner needs attention to speed up and allow process to be approved

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem on the surface a good idea, but RG's licences are expedited promptly and for the Registration service they provide an additional level of security/authorisation when usual formalities/ timescales can not be adhered to

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. - yes, would reduce the work load registration offices have been facing around Covid / Lockdowns and future uncertainties
- 2 - no, second stage needs to be in person for registration service assurance
3. - no , concerns for scam/ forced marriage/ capacity
4. - no to remote signatures, possible option for each to sign a different copy of schedule but would need to be carefully monitored and only in extremely exceptional circumstances

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Vessels registered in England & Wales  
Approved officiant  
Couples legally able to marry in England and Wales

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Insufficient knowledge to understand the demand for this

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants need to incorporate this within their own fees and not piggy back on approval from a local authority unless they have made a financial agreement with the local authority to do so

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Current law doesn't discourage couples from getting married, just severely limits venue choices
2. Would be welcomed by couples, by opening up choices and personal preferences

Unable to substantiate figures but aware that weddings had a peaked increase when national publicity surrounded a "divorce" that couldn't take place, due to the fact that the marriage, undertaken in a non Christian venue in the UK, was not legal and the bride was unaware of this, losing a

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. There are limited number of Register Office that offer simple weddings ( couple + 2 witnesses) Most charge for main ceremony room irrespective of number of attendees ( even pre-Covid)
2. Costs of marrying on approved premises - couples assume this fee all goes to the Registrars attending!
- 3 Costs of marrying in places of religious worship are on a par with marrying in approved premise, additional fees include verger, organist, bells etc
- 4 Costs for locations, not currently authorised need to include cost/ time and expectation of officiant plus additional cost of a civil ceremony in order to make marriage legal, which needs explanation by venue/officiant
5. Costs and necessity of separate legally recognised wedding would be outweighed if more Register Offices could offer their simple weddings, but these may well disappear if the legislation opens up as suggested in consultation document

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Register Office weddings (2+2) should remain a choice, but more Register Offices should permit these
2. Couples would not be as torn for choice with options opened up, and would not require both ceremonies and their associated costs
3. A separate legally recognised wedding means that couples can have the choice of a "party" without the "wedding" label and all the costs that venues/suppliers load onto this label. Some couples may still prefer to have this as an option

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Unless venues have sufficient weddings booked they run the risk of not being able to continue with their wedding licence, due to cost

There are usually sufficient registration officers to attend wedding venues

We are paid 2 hours for a wedding which includes travel time

Average £10/per hour + mileage

The majority of us are employed on zero hours contracts

We are a source of revenue for the Government, which could be reduced significantly if independent officiants were given the authority to conduct legally recognised ceremonies

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Fee for pre- approval dropped, may increase profit margin but increase their onus for addressing risks & standards in-house, possibly increasing their insurance premiums and thus negating cost benefit of not paying fees
2. Registration officers rarely unavailable for civil ceremonies, and flexible about timings - pool of staff employed county wide
3. More flexibility with additional officiants?
4. Increase in number of weddings would be welcomed by all businesses in the wedding industry as well as those on the periphery. Especially after the challenges of 2020, national/regional lockdowns and cancellations of flights/holidays abroad which offered other wedding options

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities would see a decrease in income if venues were not regulated by them.

Registration Officers may leave the service to become independent officiants if they could see better pay for a similar job and choice of clients/venues/ hours

Increased workload for Register Office handling schedules from officiants before/after ceremonies, electronically registering ceremonies and production /postage of certificates

Handling remote Notices of marriage and tying in with appointments before issuing final schedules.

Dealing with complaints that cross boundaries

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Acknowledging that they have listened to customers

Offering more choices and flexibility

Opportunity to restructure pricing

Wedding business is phenomenal and local authorities should be looking at how this can work to their advantage and not lose potential sources of income/expertise

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Current law seems to allow residents choice and a fairly simple system

2. Current law provides hurdles for couples to negotiate, but sham/forced marriages still able to work around the system. This needs addressing, tightening , with speedier response to register office concerns

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. There may be a reduction in residents travelling to other jurisdictions to get married, if the settings/scenery is available in the UK. It will not deter people who use the wedding overseas as a means of limiting the people they would really want at their wedding.

Although this has been a positive response to Covid limited numbers at weddings this year

2. Very limited experience of this happening, apart from dealings with parties becoming "residents" for what turn out to be sham/forced marriages. Negative side of making current law more flexible - really do need to focus on making preliminaries water-tight and speedy system for escalation for any concerns anywhere along the process for religious and civil

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Insufficient knowledge to comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Insufficient knowledge of ship register and maritime industry to comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Government /local authorities need to carefully consider the potential loss in revenue in comparison with the additional administrative workload

2. Businesses will be excited by the prospect of so much income potential

3. Church of England will need to be handled carefully , but they might appreciate less administrative burden due to falling number of ministers

Other religions would welcome inclusion

4 Independent officiants probably wholeheartedly support the proposals as see this, like businesses, as boost to their income and independence

5. Couple will welcome choices

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHU-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law

Submitted on 2020-11-20 16:57:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Registration service in [REDACTED] County Council.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a marriage Registrar it was sometimes difficult to get Venues to research the government covid rules or weddings. Pon arriva, we were then giving wedding parties instructions that they were not prepared for. I.e.masks, number of attendees.  
Guests attending Register office and venue weddings were often refusing to comply to covid rules. Many did, but others put pressures on my colleagues which was very disappointing.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Proof of residency is currently a requirement to give notice of marriage. I do not think 7 days is unreasonable.

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Uncertain how this would be achieved although, input Registration district we have experienced parties icing their notice before booking a wedding. This leads to confrontations about availability and times of weddings which should be agreed beforehand in our district.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I foresee many problems here as staff availability to conduct a wedding needs to be planned.  
It is not unusual for our registration office to conduct over 30 weddings each weekend during peak times. This entails travelling several miles between each wedding and a relatively small pool of staff.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Presently, notices of marriage should be conducted on a one to one person anyway with no other person present. This happens in our district with partner 2 seen separately.  
Both are interviewed individually and in confidence.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

In my experience, this happened rarely so I am not sure if it is necessary to keep or abolish.  
I took notices for many years and do not think I reached double figures for such notices.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly.  
There were cases many years ago where notices were displayed outside the Register Offices. I believe this was stopped. One of the reasons being nuisance callers pestering the couple afterwards - insurance salesman etc.  
In these modern days, I am see the problem being far greater.  
On a plus side, more people can see the notice to object regarding sham marriage etc.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Works ok presently.

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I receive emails from my superintendent most weeks asking for urgent volunteers to officiate as staff members are suddenly unavailable. Take this year's covid pandemic for example where a whole office might have to self isolate at short notice.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I can only give registration experience and this happens regularly.

Staff are suddenly required to register deaths etc. and restructuring is required. (Registrar's are Registrar's of births, sets and marriages plus many other duties).

Please share your views below:

I fully encourage two attendees as law presently requires anyway.  
For safety purposes, legally overseeing and cover.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree, mainly for immigration and bigamy.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes along with a colleague who can oversee legalities.

I am one of many people who cannot conduct ceremonies due to nerves, but my experience in legal weddings is considerable.

Therefore I always register weddings whilst my colleagues conduct.

I really would encourage two staff. Not for my case as I can gladly retire, but for legal accuracy and safety reasons - some weddings are intimidating on a health and safety basis.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many laws of registration are complex and situations arise constantly at wrongs that require accurate and legally correct actions by the registrar. From my experience of officiants who are not registrar's, is one where the considerable marriage handbook rules are not known by them and would lead to big problems for the couple in the future.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers, but health and safety reasons alone would worry me.

Also, the legal schedule you propose needs to be accurate and stand up in a court of law possibly. This legal side need to be respected and could be the responsibility of the colleague.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

General Register Office provide an excellent service and need to oversee lists maintained.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

With proper training.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They need to be accountable.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this is the route chosen.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I envisage couples being disappointed regarding fees and standards.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I foresee officiants receiving payment to encourage couples to use certain venues for their wedding.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be difficult for a religious officiant to separate themselves for a non religious ceremony and rules. I cannot see how it would work in reverse due to religious qualifications.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In my experience, not all weddings would be conducted in a solemn and legal manner if we registrar's did not make sure rules are adhered to. In a subtle way of course.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants would be surprised how many rules there are and how big the current handbook guidelines are.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a complaint procedure to the Registrar General as well.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Organisations need to be overseen.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If there is an upsurge in numbers then yes  
If not, then the current system seems ok.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Changes are constant and need to be adhered to.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If that is the chosen route.  
Presently it works ok with civil partnership ceremonies. Although the signing of the schedule in CP's is the defining moment of that ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what the options are, but currently couples have a strange idea of what can be in a wedding ceremony and conflict is not unusual.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Where do you draw the line?  
Hymns, prayers?  
Incidental references maybe ok but registrar's/officiants are not qualified to offer correct religious content. They may be strong non believers too.

Please share your views below:

Possible entrance music and the couples exit music. Plus readings conducted by a guest but not the officiants.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Happens rarely now but it's more an issue for the civil venue.  
I believe the religious organisation should change their rules to plow the couple to marry in a church whereby they are currently not.  
A lot of religious content should ran couples should marry in a church.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All legal objections should be allowed and access is essential.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Health and safety. Weather changes.

Please share your views below:

I am very reluctant as an experienced register.

I regularly officiate at exposed structures in outside locations and problems arise.

Weather/bees and wasps! Chairs and heels sinking on a beautiful day because it rained previous day's.

Register/ schedule preservance due to wind and rain. It's not easy protecting important documents when there is even a breeze without rain.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public need to be able to object. Health and safety. Time consuming as need to move onto the next wedding.

We can do many weddings in one day.

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religion should be respected.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be an organisation like the local authority with definite guidelines and inspection.

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Imperative but it should be done in advance by local authority approval.

I think the number of weddings we do each week is underestimated.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes via the local authorities.

### Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Local authority approval with national guidelines.

Please share your views below:



General Register Office guidelines nationally and implemented by local authorities.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Often asked if mother's details can be added as well as the father's.

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If in Wales.

English only in England.

### Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential.

No

Please expand on your answer:

If you have a combination of the above then what kind of ceremony was it. Is there enough to record if any apply?

### Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There need to be respectful compliance by the couple that the legal marriage they are entering is binding and legally understood.

### Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Regarding cohabiting, it seems to be a financial arrangement not marriage. Not something we as registrar's can prove.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

?

### Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So leave it to local authority Registrar's.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The current Registrar Generals licence should be the benchmark.

I have experience of a bitter family whose mother married days before to a recent acquaintance. She was terminally ill and died soon after the wedding. Only for the groom to weeks later claim the estate.

I strongly believe that the notice and registrar's involvement should be the sole system along with the Arch Bishop of Canterbury's licence.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Very difficult due to the timescale. Presently the partner gives notice and often the terminally ill person is not strong enough and died soon after the wedding.

Couples being together a period of time should be considered with family approval?

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above. Depends on requirements.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Medical success can surprise many.

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure how this would work or pros/cons.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Easier without discriminations.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on wording and timescale.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a landlocked county and shall leave this to coastal consultees.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this is the way the law is allowing then yes.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Always thought this was an archaic system but it is a deterrent to those who just do not want to attend at an office.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

As long as backed by medical evidence. It was never easy taking money from people in such circumstances.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Popular choice.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise inflated and those concerned need to be aware e.g. online.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

?

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fees vary from authority to authority for the same service. Sometimes there is a significant difference. Presently I am in a poorly rewarded authority compared to neighbouring authorities.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

?

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Often done in a house with one party lying down. Seems a little unfair for this informal but well received ceremony.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Probably no fee but registrar's to be paid by local authority. We don't earn much.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Service to be paid for.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Most couples who approach our Register Office about marriage follow through with there wedding, even if it was not they first envisaged regarding venue.

Couples living abroad often gave up trying because of residency requirements and notices. They could add a few figures.

Couples going from our countries to marry abroad may like new options to marry here.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriage is now a business and I have seen over the years, fees inflate and vary greatly. I would like a national structure to bring in uniformity and fairness.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities are under funded so facilities are not always grand. However they provide a welcome choice to couples.  
Very loathed to accept private homes. Large house have potential. But officiating with schedules at smaller house with pets is difficult and a risk element.  
Alcohol rules need always to be considered.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

As a registration officer we send teams out to cover many weddings in one day. Alas they cannot all have the favourite timeslot. More funding for registration gives more rewards in return as we can conduct more ceremonies and not disappoint couples when already booked , often years in advance.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Need more funding and inspection staff in my opinion to view potential venues.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More workload but they must oversee all aspects. The Registration service needs funding appropriately.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think it needs reviewing regarding couples travelling from abroad. In my experience it was UK nationals wanting to marry in England so their families could be at their wedding here. However, they were often put off by the legal preliminaries.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD8W-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-21 09:27:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Service - [REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Some venues in my district had not understood the meaning of social distancing under Covid guidelines. For example: recently a couple wanted an outside wedding under a gazebo, one which did not meet 2 metre social distancing for registrars, the couple and witnesses.

This caused the ceremony to be delayed because the venue manager wanted the gazebo to be measured in our presence, claiming an independent consultant who has contributed towards the government guidelines had said it met the requirements. The venue thought registrars came under the same bubble (n.b. the majority of [REDACTED] Registrars/Ceremony Officers are home based) and therefore did not factor in the registrars would need to be 2 metres apart. They also had not factored in that 2 metre distance between the registrars and witnesses, and witnesses with the couple.

To prevent further anguish for the couple, two alternative options were offered to the couple:

(1) The ceremony goes ahead under the gazebo, but everyone required to be under the gazebo would have to wear masks - this was declined by the couple.

(2) A mock ceremony to be conducted outside the gazebo in the presence of guests, and then the legal part of the ceremony concluded in a licensed room at the venue with just the couple, witnesses and registrars - this was the couples preferred option.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Agree. When I joined [REDACTED] registration in 2012 I was surprised to learn that couples had to be living in the registration district 7 days prior to giving notice, and wait a further 28 days. Time for change and a redesigned legislation fit for the 21st century.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with the proposal to provide a more flexible approach for couples to be able to give notice.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I am opened minded on this subject; timing for couples will depend on availability of an officiant and the availability and suitability of a venue.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I have mixed feelings about this. While I am an advocate for embracing technology I am concerned interviewing remotely we may miss the signs of a possible forced marriage.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If notice to be given outside England and Wales and both are relevant nationals the following should apply:

(1) If resident in Scotland, then just a valid passport and proof of residence in the UK.

(2) If resident in a specified Commonwealth country or territory, on a naval ship at sea, then a valid passport together with two references provided from individuals living in the UK who have known the person(s) wishing to give notice for a minimum period (to be determined).

If exempt from immigration control the following should apply:

(1) They are a full time member of the home forces (HM Forces) subject to service law - regular (non-reserve)

(2) They are a reservist with HM Forces deployed or due to be deployed - this means reserve forces are only exempt at those times they are subject to service law

(3) They are a member of a Commonwealth force or a force raised under the law of:

(i) colony

(ii) protectorate

(iii) protected state, who is undergoing or due to undergo training in the UK with any body, contingent or detachment of the home forces including NATO forces

(4) Persons who are serving or posted for service in the UK as a member of a visiting force (including those referred to above)

(5) Persons who are serving or posted for service as a member of an international headquarters or defence organisation designated in the Order of Council

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with online, but please bear in mind even though we now live in a technological age not everyone will have access to online facilities/services.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Agree

2. Partially agree. I am a strong believer that the registration officer taking the notice should not officiate the wedding. The person officiating should always be independent, to minimise the risk of a forced marriage.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle providing the substitute officiant is a registered officiant with the authority to officiate a wedding. Also, in line with answer given to 11.2

Please share your views below:

Depends what you mean by 'other circumstances'?

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The assumption is that this is a law dating back to the 1940s

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No view on this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes

2. Separately or together, before banns are published.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:



all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, providing the organisation are registered, the nominated officiants are allocated a unique registration number issued by the GRO or by the County/Local Authority on behalf of the GRO, and are trained and follow the requirements as stipulated in the proposed new laws.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this

Please share your views below:

Agree in principle, providing all registered officiants from organisations (i.e. are not non-religious organisations) and independent celebrants, are trained by GRO or by County/Local Authorities in accordance to the new laws. Every officiant to be issued a unique registration number by GRO or County/Local Authority on behalf of the GRO. Celebrants/officiants who are not registered would not be permitted to conduct civil weddings or civil partnerships.

Excluding County/Local Authorities, types of organisation that could be considered are:

Venues

The Institute of Professional Celebrants

United Kingdom Society of Celebrants

Association of Independent Celebrants

The Fellowship of Professional Celebrants

Religious faiths, excluding the Church of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and the Roman Catholic Church.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, providing the relevant governing authority officiants are registered and trained, and follow the requirements as laid out in the proposed new laws.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Strongly agree - religious and non-religious organisations should be excluded if they promote purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agree providing these individuals are registered and trained according to the proposed new laws.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why just religious and non-religious belief organisations? There should be a public list of all registered trained registrars/ceremony officers and celebrants/officiants, held by the GRO and/or managed by GRO or County/Local Authorities.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, providing they are trained by GRO or at County/Local Authority level, and agree to adhere to the new laws.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fit and proper should also include background checks (e.g. DBS Checks)

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fit and proper should also include background checks (e.g. DBS Checks)

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, providing they are trained by GRO or at County/Local Authority level, and agree to adhere to the new laws.

If independent officiants are allowed to register then there must be an agreed set of fees for a ceremony. This would ensure consistent pricing and protect couples from paying exorbitant fees charged by independent officiants and organisations.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why we should prevent officiants from being able to advertise their services independently, and as a member of an organisation. However, this should only happen providing they are registered with the GRO or County/Local Authority, and have been issued a unique registration number by the governing body.

Only one unique registration number to be issued to Officiants, and they must adhere to guidelines and maintain training set by the GRO or County/Local

Authority. Any advertising of services must display their unique registration number. This would provide couples piece of mind knowing their officiant is officially registered and trained by the GRO or County/Local Authority to fulfil the duties and responsibilities required by the new laws.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would we determine if an organisation fulfilled these responsibilities?

Fit and proper should include background checks (e.g. DBS Checks).

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, although I think it should be GRO and/or the County/Local Authority.

Also, if there are a number of nominated officiants over a period of time (to be determined) who have failed to comply within an organisation, then the body who nominated them should also be de-authorised.

Fit and proper should include background checks (e.g. DBS Checks).

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why could it not be GRO and/or the County/Local Authority responsible for monitoring independent officiants?

Fit and proper should include background checks (e.g. DBS Checks).

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a minimum of one month allowed for registration, which allows for the processing of registration documentation and DBS checks.

Also, officiants should only be allowed to officiate at a civil wedding or civil partnership once they have received confirmation of a unique registration number allocated to them by GRO or the County/Local Authority on behalf of GRO.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within a time period e.g. 6 months

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A reading or a piece of music should be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does it really matter! Surely its about what the couple want on the day.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

No sky diving weddings

No bungee weddings

No underwater weddings

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, providing a fee can be charged by officiants to cover their travel time, admin time and mileage expenses.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Written in plain English not legal jargon

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If we are thinking of allowing couples to marry in any location a pre-approval process is irrelevant, and officiant approval should suffice.

Refer answer and additional note to question 51

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle if registering in Wales, but not sure it would work in England unless the forms are printed in both English and Welsh for the benefit of non-speaking Welsh registrars.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle but couple must still meet with a registrar to finalise notice of marriage, which minimises the risk of a forced marriage taking place.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. Mistakes to be notated on the schedule or marriage document and initialled by the individual whose details need to be changed.

2. Witnesses should be present at a ceremony.

3. If a schedule has not been signed, subject to the officiant confirming the ceremony took place, a suitable time and should be agreed to sign the

document in the presence of a registration officer by the person(s) required to sign the document.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. Agree
2. Must be with a registered officiant not with a person acting as officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None spring to mind

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle providing a registration officer can visit the person(s) with a terminal illness at the parties residence, if they are not well enough to visit a register office.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Agree

2-4. Disagree, this will not help to minimise the risk of sham or forced marriages.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There has to be some form of evidence provided, otherwise the system is open to abuse and potentially sham and forced marriages being missed.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, but would want further clarification on 'to taking place in the territorial sea' - under what circumstances?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, weddings should be able to take place in international waters under the law of England and Wales, on board vessels other than cruise ships.

Types of vessel suggestions:

Cable Layers

Dry cargo ships – tramp freighters, bulk carriers, cargo liners, container vessels, barge carriers, Ro-Ro (Roll-on/Roll off) ships, refrigerated cargo ships, timber carriers, livestock & light vehicle carriers.

Liquid cargo ships – Oil tankers, liquefied gas carriers, chemical carriers.

Cross-channel, coastal and harbour ferries.

Special-purpose vessels – exploration, weather and research vessels, deep sea survey vessels, and icebreakers.

Luxury & cruising yachts.

Warships.

Emergency service vessels (e.g. RNLI)

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree name of ship and ship's registration number should be given at notice. But why not allow a couple to give the name of the officiant?

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any registered officiant with GRO from a County/Local Authority, organisation, non-religious organisation or independent celebrant should be allowed to officiate on ships

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any registered officiant with GRO from a County/Local Authority, organisation, non-religious organisation or independent celebrant should be allowed to officiate on ships

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No view on this

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a national fee charged for a registered officiant with GRO from any County/local Authority, organisation, non-religious organisation or independent celebrant, to ensure that the location is safe and dignified, to ensure consistency in chargeable fees.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should only be set at a national level by GRO to ensure consistency in chargeable fees.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in principle, providing there is one national standardised fee for any registrar/ceremony officer, and officiant from any organisation, non-religious organisation or independent celebrant to officiate weddings. This would ensure consistency and fairness for couples. Travel fees should be charged on a mileage basis, and alternative means of transport charged at cost.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

If the party only has hours or a few days to live - then yes there should be no fee.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. The current law does discourage some couples from getting in England and Wales; choosing to marry abroad instead. It is antiquated and long overdue a review to meet present times.

2. Difficult to forecast if new proposals would facilitate an increase in the number of couples getting legally married.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There is a lack of consistency in costs charged to couples to get married. Fees for two registrar/ceremony officers to officiate at civil weddings vary considerably across local authorities, and registered venues charge exorbitant amounts to hire. Bookings are limited by the number of registers held available by local authorities. The current laws are antiquated and extremely restrictive.

1. Without surveying County/Local Authorities it is difficult to know availability and costs of register office weddings. However, based on the costs charged by the registration service I work for, the costs seem fair, but availability could be better for statutory weddings, which currently only take place on Monday's.

2. Couples will have to pay for giving a notice of intent to marry. A non-refundable deposit for a registrar/ceremony officers, or celebrant/officiant to attend, depending on ceremony and type of venue. The balance of ceremony fees minus non-refundable deposit. A certificate fee of £11. Also, potentially admin fees for any changes. Overall the costs can vary from approximately £130 to £700 depending on ceremony and type of venue.

Costs vary considerably at approved premises for couples wishing to hold their ceremony there. The costs cover venue hire for the day, food, drink and entertainment etc. Couples are effectively paying for a complete package. Couples can typically spend on average £6,000 for their wedding venue, with some venues charging in excess of £10,000, and an average of £4,000 for dry hire in [REDACTED], pre-Covid. This does not factor in the additional expenses they incur for giving notice of marriage, and paying for two registrars/ceremony officers to attend to officiate their ceremony, car hire, flowers etc.

3. Places of worship; the Church of England is a state church and therefore fees are set by parliament. The Roman Catholic Church are not listed as state church's, hence there is some variation in costs, but overall they are similar to CoE costs. From a budget perspective the costs could be considerably lower depending on the type of venue chosen by couples to celebrate their wedding with family and friends.

4. Difficult to know, hopefully they would fall within a similar cost range, or lower to item 2 above.

5. Weddings irrespective of faith should be legally recognised. There should not be the need for a separate legalised wedding. Costs; refer to item 2 response above

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Agree to continue offering register office weddings as a cheap option, but officiated only by registrar/ceremony officers registered with the County/Local Authority.

Demand may drop if the proposal is passed to allow couples to marry anywhere of their choice.

2. A pre-approval process should take place, for health and safety reasons. A special license to be issued to couples opting to hold their ceremony at an alternative venue (i.e. non-approved venue), charged at a fixed rate set by the GRO.

3. Weddings irrespective of faith should be legally recognised. There should not be the need for a separate legalised wedding.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. If the proposal is to allow couples to choose the location for their ceremony, it would be unfair for venues currently registered as an approved venue to be charged a registration fee. A possible option would be to set a fee (e.g. granting a special license) for alternative venues chosen by couples, which would generate income for the GRO or County/Local Authority. Revenue could also come by charging a fee for officiants named by registered organisations and non-religious (either charged by individual or as a fixed organisational fee), and registered independent celebrants.

2. County/Local Authority registrar/ceremony officers should not be treated any differently to celebrants/officiants who are listed as independent celebrants or by registered organisation. They should also be allowed to advertise their services. There should be one uniform registration for registrar/ceremony officers/ celebrants/officiants held by the GRO, and administered by the GRO and/or County/Local Authority.

The introduction of a marriage schedule system would dispense with the need to send out two registrars/ceremony officers under the current rules. Which in turn should help contribute to reducing the amount of fees couples have to pay to get married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Agree it should be possible to host weddings without requiring Government pre-approval. However, there should be some form of pre-approval for health and safety reasons. This could be fulfilled by the registered registrar/ceremony officer/celebrant/officiant attending the ceremony.

2. Agree registrar/ceremony officers should continue to be available for civil weddings. Also, sessionals (i.e. casual staff) taken on by County/Local Authorities as registrar/ceremony officers should be allowed to advertise as an independent celebrant.

Taking [REDACTED] as an example: the majority of registrar/ceremony officers who officiate at weddings are employed as sessionals, employed on an 'as and when needed basis' by [REDACTED] County Council. There is no promise or guarantee of a minimum level of work. Work is allocated based on a sessionals availability. Also, sessionals do not have to accept the work that is offered to them. It would be unfair for anyone employed as a sessional to not be allowed the opportunity to advertise their service as an independent celebrant or be registered with another organisation.

3. I do not have an issue with this. After all, surely its about what the couple wants on the day?

4. If the proposal is to offer couples the freedom to choose where they wish to hold their civil wedding, and to allow registered organisations, non-religious and independent celebrants to officiate ceremonies, and choose their own catering etc., then there is going to be an increase in business opportunities. To what extent though is difficult to say.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If the proposal to allow organisations, non-religious and independent celebrants is passed by government, County/Local Authorities may see a reduction in wedding and civil partnership bookings.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There may be some revenue benefit if they are ask to administer and register officiants from organisations, non-religious and independent celebrants.

County/Local Authorities may be able to operate with fewer office staff from an office operational point of view. They potentially would be able to offer more slots for ceremonies. They potentially could reduce their overheads by making all registrar/ceremony officers who only conduct ceremonies, independent celebrants, and also benefit by charging a small registration fee.

Revenue could potentially be generated by charging a 'special license' fee for getting married at alternative venues. Charging a fee for pre-approval of a venue, and for the inclusion of a symbolic ritual, religious content & music, a commemorative certificate on the day etc.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. & 2. Our current laws are antiquated and to restrictive to meet the needs of today's society.

Any increase in choice would be a good thing, which hopefully would encourage more couples in the UK and from overseas to consider getting married in England and Wales.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. & 2. The money spent by couples choosing to get married in England and Wales will potentially help towards contributing to the economic growth in England and Wales.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Our current laws are antiquated and too restrictive to meet the needs of today's society.

Ships registered in the United Kingdom should be allowed to offer couples the opportunity to have a legal wedding ceremony (which might include symbolic rituals), irrespective of which international water or port they are in.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Based on recent industry analysis; a change to our current laws to provide freedom of choice to couples on where they can marry, and the potential income that could be generated by allowing cruise ships registered in the UK to offer legal binding weddings, would be a good thing for both the UK maritime industry and UK economy.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Being employed as a home based sessional registrar/ceremony officer (i.e. casual worker) I am too distant from office operations to comment on the potential costs that could be incurred. However, any new system or modified system to accommodate the new proposals for change, and training of staff, will inevitably incur costs.

Organisations, non-religious organisations and independent celebrants, if authorised by Government should be charged a fee to be authorised to officiate at weddings.

A standard set of fees should be considered, charged by all. This would ensure consistent pricing and protect couples from being charged exorbitant fees by organisations and independent celebrants to officiate the ceremony.

By set fees I mean; cost for giving notice of marriage, admin fees, issue of a marriage schedule, cost of marriage certificate etc set by GRO and administered by GRO and/or County/Local Authority. There should also be a fixed cost for a registrar/ceremony officer, celebrant/officiant to officiate a ceremony (n.b. this must factor in their time for admin duties and any other responsibilities they are expected to fulfil prior to and after the ceremony). This must be a uniform fee across all County/Local Authorities, registered organisations, registered non-religious organisations and independent celebrants to ensure couples are fairly charged. Any other costs for a symbolic ritual, religious content, music, additional ceremony script content, bound scripts etc, are additional costs charged by County/Local Authorities, registered organisations, registered non-religious organisations and registered independent celebrants.

Fees set against the above suggestion, would hopefully be cheaper for couples, than hiring an approved venue and paying for two registrars to attend a civil wedding under the present setup.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHQ-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-21 19:22:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Christians not otherwise designated

i am an authorised person for marriage.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

-

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

some couples have had to postpone their weddings which has been quite stressful. We had some that were delayed in our local church and witnessed the pressure on the persons involved and their families especially given that we believe in following the scriptural basis for marriage so we do not live together before marriage.

Also the inconvenience of the limitations of numbers when they returned home from the ceremony meant the brides parents and bridesmaid having to wait in a nearby carpark while brides married sister visited so as to avoid being over the prescribed numbers. This was unreasonable. furthermore, if the ceremony could have been at home there would be less risk of infection.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

agree

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

agree

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

we usually have 2 who can officiate, this means we are ready if anything delays one of the officiates.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes this is sensible if they are able to and the couple are happy and substitute officiant is happy.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

-

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple getting married should be able to choose their current Authorised Person officiant from their church

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if we move to an officiant based system instead of building based, it would be good if the appointment of the officiant could be done by trustees and/or governing authority of that organisation or it's central entity rather than limiting it to just trustees to appoint.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

we firmly believe in the sanctity of marriage and that the respecting this and practicing this is key to the success of the marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree that organisations that fuel criminal or unlawful activity should be excluded.

However, genuinely held Christian beliefs that are contrary to public policy (such as same sex marriage) shouldn't be excluded

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes this is right, we don't charge for our services, it is not something to be making money on.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as guidance, subject to the beliefs and values of the church

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

assuming this is for gross mis-conduct

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

assuming this is for gross mis-conduct

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

agree as long as the dignity and sanctity of marriage is maintained, not all venues would be suitable. it would be good to be able to marry in the home setting.

Please share your views below:

marriage in the home setting would be good as could avoid other distractions, be more relaxed and be dignified.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as not too strict and detailed

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Please share your views below:

-

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

details could be put in before ceremony and just signed afterwards

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

-

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

i believe this new legislation could help make it easier for persons to get married which is a committal we believe in and helps stability of such relationships.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

i feel if marriage is allowed in the home setting this could be significantly simpler and save a lot of wasted costs. cost has been a deterrent to some getting married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

-

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

-

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

-

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

-

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

-

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

it would be good to remove requirements to be resident in uk or to be here for an extended period of time before being allowed to marry in UK. some have had to have extended time off work to stay in UK before they can get married and return home. this can mean substantial loss of earnings which often is a very inappropriate time in life to sustain. Also means they have to find accommodation for that waiting time which can be costly.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

-

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

-

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

-

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDRE-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-21 19:31:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Yasin Mohammed Din

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Barrister at Law

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Married by way of [REDACTED]

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully aware from the outset [REDACTED]

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am aware of the limitations [REDACTED] and how to address any issues that may arise due to my vocation.



#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A as it was a personal choice in the knowledge of what legal rights were not being acquired.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I would have to agree with this. In the pre Covid era the world that we lived in allowed us to move freely not only from one area to another but other nations subject to immigration controls. Although freedom of movement from the European perspective is to come to an end, this does not mean that people will not move from one country to another. Relationships in the digital age are not limited to any particular locations, the use of dating Apps and websites means that people have a broadened spectrum from which they may find a partner.

The residency requirement is an anarchic feature of the era which no longer exists and, in the world, where a person identity, address and more importantly nationality can be easily identified there is no requirement for them to have lived at a particular place for a particular time in order to be eligible for marriage. Marriage is recognised by the state at a national level, not a local level and the residence requirement does not materially impact upon the formalities of marriage.

If the proposal was not to be implemented, the question that needs to be answered would be what purpose of requirement in a world where a person can be identified digitally? From a historical point having residency allowed a degree of certainty to be established as to who the parties were, but that was in a non-digital era. The residency requirement in the digital world will become more of a hinderance to those who have developed their relationships via modern means of communication and reside in different locations, or even countries.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree with the proposal and a party should be able to start the notice period either online, by post or in person. I would not advocate that at this stage that the giving of the notice should be wholly online as it would not cater for those who do not have the means to use any online process due to any limitations or disability. Even if there is a further pandemic or national emergency one should not move to a full online platform until all of the UK is covered by superfast broadband or 4G which is not the case as of yet.  
([https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/202571/connected-nations-summer-update-2020.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/202571/connected-nations-summer-update-2020.pdf)).

Giving notice via an online platform or by post should have added layers to verify the person identity, so it should include ID/passport, address verifications and an email and address for each party as part of the process. Any online or postal process ought to incorporate a notice akin to statutory notice that information is being provided by the relevant party themselves as opposed to a third party. This is to address the issue of consent from the outset as if a person is being forced etc.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

This should be tailored by the circumstances, there can be a standard 3 days period, but even this must be subject to a variance when dealing with those who are terminally ill where time may be of the essence. So where there is a need the period can and should be shorter.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I would agree that interviews should move towards an online platform allowing for remote interviews to take place, but I would not advocate that a wholly remote based system.

The issue with a full remote system is that a person could be perceived to be alone in the room and visually that may be the case, but it could be the case that the person who is subject to the interview may be either being recorded by a third party or being watched via another phone or tablet or being asked

to read from a cue card etc all which would be outside the view of the interviewer. If this was to occur, then it would place a party in a situation of being monitored or controlled which would not be evident and could lead to marriages arising where there is a lack of consent or capacity in the absence of any concerns raised which could lead to an in-person interview. Hence, if the interviewer has no concerns pre the interview then those who are being forced or lack capacity may slip through. The comfort of direct human interaction could lead to information being volunteered when seeking to establish if a person has been forced or not or if they have capacity.

I accept that the way forward is remote for many things including marriage but as part of the process any guidelines or a code of practice should use a sliding scale as to when it would be appropriate for an in-person interview to take place in the absence of any concerns or flags being raised. In terms of a sham marriage, one may be in a position to extract information from the age, location or nationalities of the parties, but this would not be as easy when it comes to capacity or consent especially where the parties seem to be of a similar age and nationality. In terms of consent and capacity.

So how could one filter the genuine from the sham, the one who is consenting and the one who is not or who has the capacity to consent? I would propose that a matrix based upon the persons age, any known disabilities, cultural background, any request not to publish details of the notice of marriage and level of education be used as opposed to any form ethnicity grouping which may be seen as profiling. I would suggest a table based upon the following grouping to be used to determine that it would be more appropriate to interview in person where the ages and the nationalities are similar, equally where they are different it could be used to increase the risk of the marriage lacking consent, capacity or it being a sham.

1. Very High risk aged 16-18
2. High Risk aged 18-25
3. Medium Risk aged 25-30
4. Low Risk aged 30 plus

Hence in the notice being given sufficient data should be captured to allow any concerns to be flagged up and a decision then to be made whether it should be in-person interview as opposed to a remote interview.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be accommodated as we now live in a digital world where relationship can arise between parties who live in different parts of the UK or even abroad provided they are exempt from immigration control. This would also assist those who are working overseas either as Crown employees or otherwise.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I would agree with this in order to address the issues of forced marriages, sham marriages and those who lack capacity as it could allow others to come forward with information to challenge the validity of the marriage application. Thus, any request not to publish the information should be followed up with a request for further information with a view to holding an in-person interview if the elements at Q7 also appear.

In terms of the 'star crossed lovers' they may be marrying against the wishes of other, be it family, or others should not be published to protect them. The question is how can this be done without the system being abused by other, in other words how can one balance the competing interests? I would suggest that where a party seeks to withhold the information being displayed publicly, then it should trigger further enquiries to establish whether there is a need for an interview to take place with the parties to address the risks they face if the information is displayed publicly and to provide evidence from other organisations such as the Police, Social Services, Refuges etc which shows or will corroborate any risk to the parties as well as what I have said at Q7. This may filter out those seeking to abuse the system and allow those who have face a genuine risk to remain anonymous.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As the Covid 19 situation has highlighted there can be external factors which can affect any timelines the parties have and the period of 12 months is reasonable.

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I would agree with the proposal of 11.1, but I would also advocate that the place which employs the Officiant should also be noted on the schedule. This would give notice to those who are intending to marry that the Officiant is linked to an organisation which would allow the parties the room to check to ensure that by using this Officiant they would end up being legally married. It would also allow for greater flexibility of who could officiate should the need arise which I will address at Q12.

It may be easier and more beneficial when one considers 11.2 for the power to provide an alternative officiant to the organisation which the officiant is a part of. This would allow for a less administrative route to obtaining an amended schedule as the organisation who would be more familiar with the process would apply as opposed to the parties who one assumes would have less experience in having a schedule amended.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I do agree and in order for this to be an effective proposal one should have regard to either

(a) Nominating two Officiants, the second being the substitute.

(b) Nominating the organisation as the Officiant who could then select the relevant person to officiate on the day, thus, allowing for greater freedom should an issue arise. This would assist in having to find a new Officiant at the last minute.

(c) Create a power that would allow an organisation to delegate the responsibility of officiating the marriage especially in the case of issues arising on the day of the marriage, in the absence of having the power to delegate the role to another would more likely than not cause a delay in the marriage taking place.

Please share your views below:

In any of the circumstances the insertion of a substitute would need to be justified in circumstances other than death or sudden illness, as these both could be corroborated, but where there is a delay or there are other circumstances which mean the officiant was no longer available, then it should not be a matter of just swapping one with another. As firstly one has to establish the reasonableness of a substitute being used, how long is the officiant delayed, how ill are they, can they participate via a phone or tablet etc. furthermore, one has to approach any change by factoring in the matrix I suggested at Q7 in order to address if there any issues over consent, capacity and knowledge of the status of the marriage which have caused the 'delay' or 'illness' etc.

Should there be a valid reasons for the delay which could be corroborated then any substitute should be required to confirm that they are satisfied that (a) the parties have capacity, (b) they are consenting and (c) they are aware of the implications of status that would arise from the ceremony. Any late withdrawal in the absence of reasons identified would need to be considered carefully, just in case the officiant withdrew due to concerns which have not been aired.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No view on this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No strong views on this but it would address the issues of capacity and consent

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be case, but the parties should be given the choice separately if they wish to make the declaration independently, this being an opportunity for them to raise any issues as to consent etc

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This would do away from the distinction between a religious and non religious marriage and perhaps the address the issues of the current legislation being discriminatory in nature as highlighted by Harrison & Ors, R (On the Application of) v Secretary of State for Justice [2020] EWHC 2096 (Admin) (31 July 2020) . This area I will address in Q85.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I would agree with the proposal of the Officiant being subject to legal duties , the obligation upon any officiant must go beyond being a mere observer, the parties who appear before such a person relying on the Officiant to start the process of altering their status from one of being in relationship to one of being recognised by the state as being an union which then brings the trappings of being recognised as being married. If the role is merely to observe, then they serve no real purpose in them attending in person and the role could be undertaken remotely.

1. In terms of consent this is an issue that should be revisited at this stage as it may be the case that between the period of the notice being given and the actually wedding a party has had a change of heart and is now being in placed in a situation where either emotionally they are compelled or other circumstances are compelling them to enter the marriage and again the importance of human interaction may bring to the surface the issues, thus, they should go through all elements to ensure that the person does consent.

2. One of the issues that has arisen particularly when it comes to faith-based marriages is that they have fallen foul of the formalities of the 1949 Act meaning that parties found themselves in the situation of the law taking the view that they entered into a non-qualifying ceremony which would be afforded no protection. This led to the courts seeking to infer intention as per via Hudson v Leigh [2009] EWHC 1306 1306 (Fam) and MA v JA [2012] EWHC 2219 (Fam)I will address this issue more at Q58. By placing a legal obligation upon the officiant, it will mean;

a. There would be a duty to explain to the parties the effect of the ceremony which in the case of an Islamic or other faith-based ceremony would mean that the parties would understand the difference between the legal and religious marriage, allowing them to consider their positions.

b. By the above becoming part of the process, it will also mean this issues of marriage will be discussed much earlier giving more scope to address any issues relating to the limping marriages.

c. In the case of where an Islamic marriage is concerned, the Officiant would be in a position to inform the parties that the marriage may be a non-qualifying ceremony if they did not incorporate certain elements it would not be recognised so it would (in part) address the issue of a party entering into a religious based marriage in ignorance.

3. By discharging this requirement, it would mean that there would be a higher chance of the marriage being regarded as complying with the formalities of marriage.

### Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No strong view on this

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be much easier

### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this

### Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Whilst this may operate well for religious organisations that have a nominated body that can regulate such, it would not apply to all, especially Muslims. The Muslim Council of Mosques ( <https://mcb.org.uk/about/>) refers to having 500 members of which some are Mosques but statistics from 2015 onwards show that there far more than 500 mosques, there being 1242 in 2015(Getting Married; Law Commission Scoping Paper, 17th December 2015, Figure 10,

page 49, [http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/app/uploads/2015/12/Getting\\_Married\\_scoping\\_paper.pdf](http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/app/uploads/2015/12/Getting_Married_scoping_paper.pdf) ), 1975 (Naqshbandi, Mehmood( 2017) UK Mosque Statistic/Masjid Statists 16th September 2017, Muslims in Britain [http://www.muslimsinbritain.org/resources/masjid\\_report.pdf](http://www.muslimsinbritain.org/resources/masjid_report.pdf) in 2017 and the Commission paper noting that only 298 are registered (Paragraph 2;139 - Law Commission Paper; Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law 3rd September 2020 page 60). What this highlights is that there are many places of worship which can not only marry Muslims but also provide the Imams to carry out the marriage and the lack of any cohesive structure when it comes to regulating them does not exist. So one of the issues would be how to devise or define what an organisation would be who could then nominate the Officials .

2. There seems not to be the cohesion for an national organisation for all Muslims mosques from which a pool of Officials can be derived, but on a local level there are numerous mosques who act in concert with others in their localities subject to the Bareilvi- Deobandi-Wahabi matrix may be in a position to act, this could apply to other faiths as well. In light of this if the proposal is to be followed one, should seek to use the system of an authorised person that is already in place by the 1949 Act which would mean that Mosques and other faith-based organisations would need to register in order for them to nominate an Official. This may result in lowering the risk of a non-qualifying ceremony arising.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No strong view on this

Please share your views below:

No view on this

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it should be the case as otherwise it could give rise to them being treated differently, the fact that they do not wish to follow any of the old religions should not be a bar to them being married as ultimately the state since its interception in the arena of marriage by way of the 1533 Ecclesiastical Licences Act (Chapter 21 25 HEN) has slowly moved the concept of marriage of one being governed by the church to one by the state and this resulted in the recognition of qualifying ceremonies which did not have to adhere to the Abrahamic pillars of belief and marriage today no longer recognises that faith has to be a prerequisite and it seems we have long moved on from the views of Lord Penzance in 1 Hyde v Hyde and Woodmansee 1866 [LR] 1.P.D.130 that "Marriage as understood in Christendom is the voluntary union for life of one man & one woman, to the exclusion of all others" when this is read in light of The Civil Partnership Act 2004, The Gender Recognition Act 2004, The Marriage (Same sex Couples) Act and The Civil Partnership, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019, then what one sees is although the Abrahamic faiths outlawed such, they are recognised by the state. This highlights the move away from an adherent belief in the laws of God as being the precursor to having a belief of a power or being which recognises the marriage of any and all persons regardless of sex.

In regard to meeting for services, these should be extended from the limitations of meeting in person and should be extended to remote attendances which could be corroborated by way of a booking in or a login process.

In terms of a 20-member rule, I would agree to this, as it need not be a universal belief. In terms about beliefs about marriage, one has to note that the definition of a civil partnership as per section 1 Civil Partnership Act 2004 does not import a belief requirement, nor does it refer to any relationship having to be formed on a particular ground, it merely recognises that a union between two parties can arise. There is a distinction between a marriage which is often rooted in the faith system and a union which is more modern term but both in essence serving the same purpose, that being society and the state recognising them as having a valid entitlement to be recognised as a single unit as opposed to two entities. I see issues by hinging reliance on the word marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

There are difficulties with this proposal when it comes to faiths which have differing views. Looking at from the Islamic perspective and where a Mosque either employs or wishes to employ an imam who has operated or has lived in another country where the laws of that country have allowed marriages which are perceived to be against public policy or morality. For example, if the Imam has conducted marriages of those under the age of 16 or conducted polygamous marriages would it be fair to exclude the religious organisation? Whilst both of these acts which I have highlighted are not permissible in this country, first one by the 1949 Act and the second one by the 1973 Act, but where they have occurred overseas and the parties to the marriage were not domiciled in this country then they would be both recognised subject to the *lex loci celebrationis* principles (*Hashmi v Hashmi* [1972] Fam, 36 (1970)). Polygamy which has occurred overseas is subject to Section 5 of the Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 and would be recognised but Section 2(2) Immigration Act 1988 only grants one wife a right to abode in this country. Even if the marriage not palatable to our societal norms as in the case of *Alhaji Mohammed v Knott* 1969 1 QB 1 where the marriage had taken place with a child (which eventually led to a change in the Immigration Rules as to what age was deemed appropriate for marriage as per Appendix FM Rule E-ECP.2.3 – Immigration Rules). or legal it does not mean it would not be recognised the principles of *lex loci celebrationis* and international law.

Hence if the Imam (or any other) had not broken any laws, then would it really be fair to exclude such. Any exclusion would have to be based upon respecting international law so that a religion or a group would not be discriminated against or be seen to. If it was the case that a Mosque employed such a person then they could fall foul of this provision as what is seen as moral and palatable in this country does not mean others hold the same views.

To exclude on this basis could give rise to discrimination, therefore any definition of what is unlawful or contrary to public policy would have to factor in the laws of other countries before seeking to exclude any organisation on this basis.

#### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes I would agree as it could be used to address the issues that were raised in Q12

#### Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as this would allow for a person prior to any marriage to be able to check if the officiant is actually who they say they are as well to increase the chances of a valid marriage arising.

#### Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would allow for others who have the requisite skills to officiate. This would be of assistance in terms of marriages within the Muslim community the Nikah ceremony is usually conducted by the Imam of the local mosque that either the parties attend or which their families attend. In the case where the parties are seeking to marry against the wishes of their families, they would be able to turn to others who would be independent of a Mosque or even a community to have the ceremony conducted which could follow the formalities of the Marriage Act 1949 giving rise to a valid marriage, otherwise they may be pushed into the arena of only having a religious marriage which would be a non-qualifying ceremony. So to avoid

One also has to have regard to inadvertently creating a cartel system where the officiants only come from a set pool which may become a hinderance to those who do not comply to an 'imposed values' meaning that those who go against the views of a community-based organisation could be excluded.

#### Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I would agree that this should be the case but this cannot be one size fits all as consideration must be given to the status of the person, in the sense what is their immigration status and also regard will need to be had to the effects of international law as well.

Where the officiant is either a British citizen either by birth, by descent or by way of naturalisation then a fit and proper test will be reasonably straightforward as DBS based checks can take place as well as the reliance on reference etc.

Where the individual that has been employed by an organisation and who has a precarious immigration status this is a factor which may need to be added into in the assessment as to whether the person is required to go through a full test or an abridged version of being a 'fit and proper person'. The Supreme court noted that any person who has anything less than an indefinite right to remain in this country then they are to be treated as being in a precarious position as per para 44 "that everyone who, not being a UK citizen, is present in the UK and who has leave to reside here other than to do so indefinitely has a precarious immigration status for the purposes of section 117B(5)"( Rhuppiah v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2018] UKSC 58 (14 November 2018)). Hence anyone employed from overseas would in the absence of holding indefinite leave to remain would fall into this group. The effect of having a precarious immigration status is that these persons are subject to the rigours of immigration control and this issue would be relevant when considering the position of the likes of Imam etc who have entered the country as ministers of religion or religious workers who are be nominated as officiants. Looking at this issue from the Islamic organisations which are primarily mosques, they tend to sponsor overseas Imam meaning that those they employ to conduct marriage services are subjects to the rigours of Tier 2 and Tier 5 of the current Immigration rules. Rule 245HB (a) for Tier 2 and for Tier 5 to meet rule 245ZO (a) requires them to show that the general grounds of refusal do not apply to them. Meaning at the point of entry they have to show that they are suitable as per Paragraph's 320(2) (a to d) ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673999/GGFR-Section-2-v29.0EXT.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673999/GGFR-Section-2-v29.0EXT.PDF)) so that they are free of criminal convictions, and that there are no reason for them to be excluded for the public good under paragraph 320(6). At the point of any extension they have to show that they are still suitable as per paragraph 322( [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/674001/GGFR-Section-4-v29.0EXT.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674001/GGFR-Section-4-v29.0EXT.PDF)). (These rules are to be updated by the new points based system).

The fact they need to comply with such requirements would show that the Secretary of State has already addressed this particular issue and where the officiant position is a precarious one, then regard must be had to their immigration status to determine if they are fit and proper when it comes to character and if they are free of any incumbrancers then then they may not have to go through the same rigours given that they are monitored on a periodic basis by the secretary of state who can curtail their leave, remove or deport them via the immigration powers.

The fit and proper persons test when it comes to any proposes officiant having come through the Immigration routes should also be read in light of international law. For example If an Imam had originated from Pakistan where subject to complying with Section 6 of The Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961

(<http://punjablaws.gov.pk/laws/777a.html>) as updated (24th March 2015 <http://www.punjablaws.gov.pk/index3.html> ) which allows a person in Pakistan

to have a second wife and that Imam had officiant over it should not be a bar given that Section 5 Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995 and the *lex loci celebrationis* (*Awuku v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2017] EWCA Civ 178 (23 March 2017) Para 15 ) would recognise such an act, hence any test should not refer to the acts which if permissible by the law of the land from which they originated conflicted with the law of the land here. Thus, any test should not seek to exclude them on the basis of public policy or morality alone.

In terms of further developments as in CPD the commission should have regard to the fact the English that is required for a Minister of Religion to enter is B1 Common Reference Level (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>) in the absence of coming from an English speaking nation or holding a requisite qualification to show that they are proficient. Thus, any test for CPD should be tailored to a level of English not above B1.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

31.1 Yes, they should be

31.2 Yes to ensure that can explain the effects upon the parties

31.3 In regards to this I would refer to the points I have made re the issue of English at Q30.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I do as it could encourage officiants to turn this into a vocation where the main concerns if monetary value as opposed to remaining vigilant when it comes to consent and capacity. In essence it would create competing interests of discharging a duty and financial remuneration.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong views on this

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the case when it comes to all parties and beliefs to ensure marriage is given the weight it should be. One also has to have regard spiritual obligations which occur in most faith based marriages and this is of importance when it comes to potential Muslim officiants who have to uphold the dignity and solemnity of a marriage to ensure that a valid contract of marriage arises. Islamic marriages are based in contracts as per Verses 2;228 "O ye who believe! When ye deal with each other, in transactions involving future obligations in a fixed period of time, reduce them to writing. Let a scribe write down faithfully as between the parties...& get two witnesses, out of your own men, & if there are not two men, then a man & two women, such as ye choose, for witnesses, so that if one of them errs, the other can remind her..." and Verse 24;33 "And let those who find not the means to marry be abstinent till God enriches them of His bounty. Those your right hands own who seek emancipation, contract with them ". Therefore, a Muslim officiant is there to ensure that what is required by their vertical relationship with God occurs to ensure that a contract arises which is fair to the woman as this was the reason why marriages were moved to contractually based agreements to redress the balance (Khadduri 1978, Khadduri, M. (1978). *Marriage in Islamic Law: The Modernist Viewpoints*. The American Journal of Comparative Law, 26(2), 213-218. doi:10.2307/839669). Islamically a marriage is not just seen as benefit of the two parties but is a benefit to society as a whole (Haifaa 1998, Jawad, Haifaa, (1998) *The Rights of Women in Islam, An Authentic Approach* Macmillan Press Ltd UK). Hence a marriage from an Islamic view is based upon a contractual agreement between the parties which is subject to the laws of God which are woven into it and any Imam is already obliged to adhere to both the dignity and solemnity of marriage, so it would be prudent to ensure that those who wish to be officiants are aware of their obligations by engaging it as a direct responsibility so that they act where it is needed to ensure that a woman is not about to sign a contract which is on unfavourable terms or which is not recognised as a valid marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should occur provided the guidance is mindful of the belief systems of the parties and does not create a conflict.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I do, but there must be an overarching mechanism in place as well in the case of where there is a persistent failure on part of the organisation that are monitoring the officiants. As if the organisations are wholly independent without any oversight then it could lead to failures not being addressed. I would recommend that there be periodic audits to ensure compliance or evidence to be provided to show that they have the systems in place to ensure compliance.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I do, I refer you to my responses at Q37, 39 that there should be some form of compliance checking to be introduced by way of Audits or evidence of compliance

The General Register Office should also be given the power to suspend the Officiant pending the resolution of any issues depending upon the circumstances. The General Register Office should also have the power to request evidence of compliance from any organisation where there are a number of officiants who have either failed the fit and proper persons standards or other duties.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have already touched on these issues in the previous answers. The General Register Office where organisations fail to act should be given the power to investigate, this would mean the setting upon an investigatory arm, as well as a panel to determine the matter as well as an appeal mechanism to ensure that there is compliance with the principles of natural justice. To limit such and to promote greater compliance by the organisations and auditing process would help to focus minds not only ensuring compliance but also to address the issue without the General Register Office having to get involved.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, as there should be a proscribed period to ensure that those who are given the role are not placed in a position of power which cannot be removed unless they are found not to be fit and proper. It should be a cyclic period of 5 years.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in principle I agree with what is being proposed, but there are issues when it comes to this. Firstly, there is no definition of a CPD in the consultation paper, but I will work on the premises that it would be similar to what lawyers are required to undertake and if this is the case, I see issues.

The major issue would be how would one define what form of CPD requirement should exist especially where the officiant is person of a religious order who has followed the requisite format of their religious order to be recognised in a particular role? So, the question is what form of CPD is being proposed? Is it in relation to their understanding of their roles or they have maintained their religious studying? If it is in terms of religious studying then this would be problematic as how would you define what religious training a Priest or Imam required, even if you could identify religious training, then how would that apply to Humanists or other beliefs who do not follow the paths of an established existence of an entity etc. In my view to ensure parity between those officiants who come from a religious background and those who do not, then any form of CPD would be based upon how they can ensure a valid marriage arises, training on identifying marriages where there is force or a lack of consent or how to identify a vulnerable person who lacks capacity etc. If the CPD was to be religious based, then it would create a layer of complexity which may not be easy to reconcile.

Consideration would need to be given to a provider of the CPD, one would assume they would have to be accredited etc to provide any training that is required.



## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1.a Yes, they should be required to express consent. The requirement for expressing consent has to always take place in order for a valid nikah contract to arise as Islam has not and does not promote marriages against one's will as per verse 4:24 of the Qu'ran which states "Other women are lawful to you, long as you seek them in marriage, with gifts from your property, looking for wedlock". "The importance of consent is evidenced by the hadith relating to Khansa' bint Khidam who was married against her will resulting in the Prophet cancelling her marriage (Sahih al-Bukhari, Vol. 9, Book of Tricks, Hadith 99). Islamically consent need not be oral it can be inferred as noted in the hadith of "A'isha (Allah be pleased with her) reported: I asked Allah's Messenger ﷺ about a virgin whose marriage is solemnised by her guardian, whether it was necessary or not to consult her. Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: Yes, she must be consulted. 'A'isha reported: I told him that she feels shy, whereupon Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: Her silence implies her consent" (Sahih Muslim, Vol. 3, Book of Marriage, Hadith 3305 ). However, silence does not equate to consent in all circumstances; silence will be deemed consent in the context of shyness as opposed to any other emotion that may exist for remaining silent. Accordingly, the expression of consent should be widened to allow non-verbal forms to be acceptable depending upon any religious views as any disabilities or illness that may limit the use of verbal communication. It is important to address this issue at the point of the ceremony in the presence of others to establish consent, which also would address the issue of capacity in part. I would agree with the proposal, the only additional requirement I suggest that it is done in a publicly accessible space or in the presence of two witnesses.

1.b In terms of the issue of the impediment, this is a grey area, if the period between the giving of the notice and then the ceremony it is short, then the likelihood of an impediment arising is very small, so in such circumstances it could be discounted. In the case where the notice is given, a schedule is issued, and parties wait up to the 12th month then an impediment could have arisen in the intervening window.

Accordingly, I would suggest that if the ceremony takes place within a short period of the notice being given i.e., 28days then the requirement for the impediment should be removed, but if it goes beyond this period then it should take place.

42.2 I would agree with this, consent according to belief can arise in different guises, therefore it should not be limited. Using an Islamic marriage as a guide this would arise by way of the Imam who is conducting the ceremony is required to establish consent by asking in the presence of witnesses that the parties' consent which is then to be recorded in the nikah contract. The nikah contract itself would address both the issue of marriage and as well as the issue of polygamy which would be regarded as an impediment.

42.3 I would agree with this as this would allow for non-verbal consent to be used as noted above.

42.4 I would agree with this, but it should be noted that any Islamic marriage would only become effective once the contract had been created which contained a provision for a dowry being incorporated, although this is subject to the differing views of the schools.

### Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I would agree with this as this provided the form or ceremony did not cause offence to the majority of those who may follow a particular faith. Looking at this from an Islamic perspective there are two issues that I see that could cause offence if there was absolute freedom. The first being that same sex marriages between Muslims are not recognised as Islam only recognises heterosexual marriages, there is unanimity on this point by all the schools (Rehman, J & Polymenopoulou, E (2013), Is Green a Part of the Rainbow? Sharia, Homosexuality & LGBT Rights in the Muslim- Fordham International Law Journal, Volume 37, Issue 1, 2013, Article 7). Given that this is the position then the officiant should be given the right to agree or disagree as to the form of the ceremony which could impinge upon the validity of the religious aspect of any marriage where such a marriage is not going to be recognised as in the case of a same sex Islamic marriage. In other words, the commission should consider the issue of any ceremony transgressing the beliefs of others and where such may occur, there should be a provision for Officiant to interject where the issue of offence may arise.

If the wedding form and ceremony is likely to result in non-compliance of then the Officiant should be able to object, especially where the form may result in not being able to discharge any legal obligation that are implemented.

Following on from this there is the issue does the proposed form or ceremony place a party at a disadvantage and should this be brought to the attention of the parties by the Officiant. Again, looking at the matter from an Islamic perspective it is fact that any marriage which complies with the formalities of the 1949 Act gives rise to a valid marriage which can be terminated, but the termination does not extend to the religious marriage giving rise to the 'limping marriage', a point which needs to be addressed. The 2018 Review advocated that in terms the 'limping marriage' that this issue could be resolved by amending section 10A MCA 1973 to cover Muslims. As I noted in my thesis "Even if this was to be adopted then it would not resolve the issue as if the husband refused to engage in the Talaq process, be it a valid or void marriage, then the woman would still have to find a route out of the Nikah be it via the Sharia council or otherwise to show the religious marriage had ended. Therefore, this would have the converse effect of the current 'limping marriage' issue as until the woman is released from the Nikah, she would not be able to obtain a legal divorce, potentially placing a woman in limbo again." The commission has proceeded not to consider this point, but it is a relevant issue as if the power is given to the officiant to merely agree to the form and ceremony knowing from that any termination would only give rise to a potential for a limping marriage. The Officiant when agreeing to the form and ceremony should be given the power to inform the parties that the incorporation of any religious ceremony would need to be addressed as a discrete point should the marriage come to an end, this is to ensure all parties are aware of the implication of entering the marriage in the form and ceremony

that they have chosen to correct any imbalance that may arise. Equally this could apply to other faiths as well, merely following the law does not mean that the law will terminate a religious part of the ceremony.

#### Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this

#### Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Although, it would do away with the difference as noted in *Harrison v Secretary of State for Justice* [2020] EWHC 2096 (Admin) where it was possible, this does not mean it can be applied universally. The extent of what religious content should be allowed and at what point would be addressed as there is a potential for the creation of a hybrid religious-civic marriage formula being created which may not be sufficient to meet the religious requirements but would meet the legal requirements and creating a legally valid marriage but not a valid religious marriage. In terms of an Islamic marriage if the Nikah contract was to be excluded from the civil ceremony process, then even if it had the appearance of an Islamic wedding it would not be recognised as a religious marriage in the absence of the nikah contract being entered into and this could apply to other faiths.

Please share your views below:

Mixing of secular and religious aspects could give rise to the hybridisation of religious acts and being used by others without understanding what offence, if any, they are causing to another's beliefs. The two should remain separate and distinct forms where a conflict could arise.

#### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, as the parties to a civil ceremony ought to have the right to follow it with a religious ceremony as a matter of personal choice. Here the state would be interfering in the right of a party to enter into a religious marriage/service in contravention of Article 12 ECHR. The state should remain at arm's length and allow parties to celebrate their marriage in accordance with their beliefs. The reason I say this is that if the law was repealed and the civil ceremonies as per Q45 remained in place, then the parties would need to have a religious ceremony pre the civil and this could result in compliance with their religious views and possibly place the civil wedding on a back foot, resulting in less engagement which could lead to a valid marriage.

#### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, as one has to have regard to the issue of both consent and capacity of the parties and as noted in the response to Q7 this should remain in place, more so where the parties are younger, to hold behind closed doors may lead to undue influence not only on the participants, but also the Officiant.

### Chapter 7: Location

#### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provisionally I agree with the proposal as one of the reasons a ceremony which does not occur at the registrar's office can become a non-qualifying ceremony under the 1949 Act is that the ceremony has not taken place on approved premises and by allowing marriages to take place anywhere would remove this obstacle. So to reduce the risk I can see the merits of this proposal.

From a Muslims perspective very often Islamic marriage ceremonies will be conducted at home or a wedding hall which increases the risk of a potential non-compliance with the current provisions. Even where the ceremonies are actually taking place at Mosques it does not mean that these Mosques are registered to conduct ceremonies. The 2015 Law Commissions Scoping Paper noted that there were 1242 mosques, of which 270 were registered (Getting Married; Law Commission Scoping Paper, 17th December 2015, Figure 10, page 49, [http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/app/uploads/2015/12/Getting\\_Married\\_scoping\\_paper.pdf](http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/app/uploads/2015/12/Getting_Married_scoping_paper.pdf)), by 2017 there were 1975 places of worship in the United Kingdom (Naqshbandi, Mehmood (2017) UK Mosque Statistics/Masjid Statistics 16th September 2017, Muslims in Britain [http://www.muslimsinbritain.org/resources/masjid\\_report.pdf](http://www.muslimsinbritain.org/resources/masjid_report.pdf)), of which 10% were registered (Uddin, Islam. (2018). Nikah-only Marriages: Causes, Motivations, and Their Impact on Dispute Resolution and Islamic Divorce Proceedings in England and Wales. Oxford Journal of Law & Religion. 7. 401-426. 10.1093/ojlr/rwy051.). The Commission noting that 298 Mosques were registered (Paragraph 2; 139 - Law Commission Paper; Getting Married: A

Consultation Paper on Weddings Law 3rd September 2020 page 60) given these figures it is likely the majority of Mosques are not registered, thus, increasing the risk of a non-qualifying ceremony arising. The proposal of allowing marriages to take place at any place would reduce the risk for those Muslims who were seeking to following the gateway provided by the 1949 Act.

Provisionally I would agree with the proposal as one of the reasons a marriage which does not occur at the registrar's office can become a non-qualifying ceremony under the 1949 Act is that the ceremony has not taken place on approved premises. By allowing marriages to take place anywhere this would remove this particular formality obstacle. So, to reduce the risk of non-compliance I can see the merits of this proposal especially from a Muslims perspective especially as very often Islamic marriage ceremonies will be conducted at home or at a wedding halls which increases the risk of a potential non-compliance with the current provisions. The Commission noted at para 7.37 and 7.89 that marriages can take place at locations other than the Mosque but makes no reference to the use of wedding halls which has become a feature given the number of Muslim banqueting halls that have come into existence. Even where the ceremonies are actually taking place at Mosques it does not mean that these Mosques are registered to conduct ceremonies as noted in Q23 and at para 7,37. The proposal of allowing marriages to take place at any place would reduce the risk for those Muslims who were seeking to following the gateway provided by the 1949 Act and it could also assist other faiths as well.

Whilst I support the position that a marriage should be allowed to take place anywhere, I have to remind myself of the issue of capacity and consent which may become veiled should the ceremony take place in a private home or other place away from prying eyes where a party may lack consent or capacity. In order to reduce the risk to this group as part of the initial process where the parties fall into the categories identified at Q7, then they must be asked in private by the Officiant to confirm they consent in the preliminary stage and be assessed as to capacity at this point. Even if at the preliminary stage there is no issue, one would still have to revisit the issue as to consent and capacity as part of the ceremony when dealing with the anyone falling into the higher risk grouping. This would require this exercise to be repeated by the Officiant as part of the ceremony and all Officiants should be trained in these areas and be part of the CPD as suggested at Q41.

Although the change will be helpful, it needs to be a balanced approach.

Please share your views below:

No strong view on this to the issue of any risk to any party deemed vulnerable or at risk has been addressed as above.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the open doors rule applies

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One must respect the sanctity of another faith and beliefs.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although, the location is a choice of the parties, it should not be the case that the parties chose a location which may cause offence or slight to others as noted in Q43 .

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is something which they can comment upon as they can assess whether there is to be any offence caused to others, or which violate the beliefs of others to ensure that all are mindful of the right of others as well.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow for understanding of the views and beliefs of others,

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on the matter

Please share your views below:

As above

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, I would not agree as this could allow the completion of the marriage's documents retrospectively and where this was not within a reasonable period of time it could lead to errors etc. Any marriage documents should contain the information that is referred to at points 1-3 which is what is normally recorded in an Islamic nikah contract. There is no reason why it cannot be completed by the Officiant at the time of the ceremony whether the Officiant is physically or remotely and all the information to be recorded.

Allowing for such to be completed could add a layer of unnecessary complexities as in what if a name is spelt wrong or the details of the parents have been recorded wrongly. These then would need to be corrected causing administrative costs to all. The documents should be completed at the time especially in the light of the technology that we have to record information instantly. Generally, when it comes to Islamic marriages this information is recorded in the contracts that are signed giving rise to the marriage.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong view

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I would agree that this should occur as we now effectively live in a digital society and more so since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic which has accelerated the use of technology in just about every sphere of life and moving to a remote base form of working and interacting is becoming normal. So, it would be a logical step to move towards electronic registration, but any framework should also seek to identify those who lack capacity and consent as well as filtering out sham marriages.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

57.1 I would not agree to this as one has to take into account the factor that one party may have informed the other that notice had been given but in reality, it had not been, or there was a genuine omission of giving the notice ie the notice was given online and due to a technical glitch it was not received, the same being case where the notice was posted, but said not have been received.

Taking the point that one party failed to notify the other party especially when it comes Islamic marriages where there is evidence that some who have entered them have done so in ignorance as noted by Vishal Vora (2020 The Continuing Muslim Marriage Conundrum: The Law of England and Wales on Religious Marriage and Non-Marriage in the United Kingdom, Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs, 40:1, 148-162) who noted that "Within this group, a minority (28%) were unaware of their lack of status... Instead, most respondents only having a nikah marriage, 66% were actively aware of their lack of status". So, some do enter through ignorance, but it also shows that Islamic marriages are taking place through choice as well as it cannot be put down to a "resurgence of fundamentalism", a point made by the Southall Black Sisters and One Law for All to the commission at para 10.174, page 303). In regard to the comments made by Southall Black Sisters and One Law for All I would say they seem to be suggesting that Islam has sought to limit the rights of women which goes against use of the marriage contracts as well as the verses of the Qur'an, (especially Surah Al-Nisa) and the Sunnah. Secondly to equate fundamentalism with marriage has no basis, the two are not interlinked and there seems to be no evidence to support the two especially in the light of there being an active choice to use Islamic marriages as a way of sanctifying the marriage (Uddin, Islam. (2018). Nikah-only Marriages: Causes,

Motivations, and Their Impact on Dispute Resolution and Islamic Divorce Proceedings in England and Wales. Oxford Journal of Law and Religion. 7. 401-426. 10.1093/ojlr/rwy051.). The reality is any system can be abused by those who wish to circumvent it but the views expressed by the two organisations in my opinion have no basis, unless they have the requisite evidence to show the link.

However, the real issue should the bad faith of one the parties to the marriage be enough to negate the validity of the marriage? As the law stands an intention to marry does not give rise to an enforceable contractual right where one person can be forced to marry another given the effects of Section 1(1) Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, so where a person has acted in bad faith and informed the other party that they have given notice and reliance is placed on that, then this should be factored into the equation to address the issues of the marriage becoming a non-qualifying ceremony which I will address at Q 58. As it stands bad faith cannot be relied upon as per the ruling in Her Majesty's Attorney General (Appellant) v Nasreen Akhter & Mohammed Shabaz Khan (Respondents) & Fatima Southall Black Sisters (Interveners) [2020] EWCA Civ 122, but if section 49 Marriage Act 1949 remains unammended then the door is still to argue that bad faith should not be always be the factor and we will head back to the Hudson v Leigh matrix.

In order for a valid marriage to arise it should be the failure of both parties to give notice, therefore, as part of the preliminaries both parties should be made aware of the obligation and a failure thereafter should give rise to the marriage being void. The alternative being that any notice given must be given by both parties to start the process to limit any risks and where there is any such issue at the point of the ceremony make it the duty of the Officiant to inform the parties of the defect, so that it may be rectified.

57.2 I would agree to this as the time frame provided is adequate and a failure to comply with the time frame brings the authority to an end and therefore any marriage post this date cannot and should be regard as being compliant.

57.3 I would agree to this as there is clear knowledge and intent on part of the parties not to follow the formalities, hence it is a choice which should not lead to a valid marriage.

57.4 I would agree to this, especially in light of the Islamic view on same sex marriages which I have addressed at Q43.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Provided the mistake is not a fundamental and the parties can be identified even with the mistakes being present then the marriage should remain as being valid, as opposed to void.

2. In terms of absence of witness this cannot be viewed in the whole, regards has to be had to the circumstances. The role of the witness is in essence to provide evidence of the marriage taking place as well as having to sign the register. The issue that needs to be addressed is what would the effect of absence on the witness be on the ceremony. The 1753 Act was introduced to address the issue of secret marriages and having witnesses present was to ensure this. Although we do not suffer from this form of marriage in today's society, the issue is would it lead to this arising again? I appreciate the issue of the star-crossed lovers who may have no one to support them as per Q9 who could seek to have the marriage notice concealed and then marry without witnesses and in such circumstances I would agree the absence of witness should not render the marriage void as the parties have disclosed the reasons for having to chose this path.

In terms of marriages where there is no risk to the parties, nor has one been raised as part of the preliminary stages then I would advocate that there should be witness present and the absence of such should render the marriage void. There is no reason why in the digital age that a witness cannot be present remotely even if they are unable to physically attend. The removal of the witnesses as noted above could lead to the rise of the secret marriages of which some may be due to force or a lack of capacity. Even where in the preliminary stages the issues of capacity and consent have been addressed and are not an issue then one could argue the need for a witness can be discarded, but consent is not a fixed variable it can change and in the absence of a witness a party may not speak up. In addition, where the officiant notes no issues the witness may.

Whilst it seems a good idea, it is not without issues. The commission should consider that witnesses need not to be physically present as an option and by that, I mean that you could have witnesses present by way of modern means of communication by way of smart phones etc and they could play the same role as if they were present and the officiant could record their virtual presence and sign the register to that effect. This may resolve the issues.

In terms of any Islamic marriage which was seeking to use the gateway or not, the Nikah contract has to be signed by the witnesses regardless of any change proposed

3. In terms of the schedule not being signed, provided the error is a genuine error on the part of the officiant and this then recorded post the ceremony by the officiant as having occurred and that the reason that the schedule has not been signed is not due to a refusal but an error then it should not affect the validity.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

58.1 I see issues in this which have looked at in Q57, the issues being if Section 49 MA 1949 is to remain in place then it would need to be shown the parties "knowingly and wilfully breach" section 49 MA 1949 by not giving notice of the intended marriage For a marriage to be void section 49 requires that a person both knowingly and wilfully seek to marry and views of the court are expressed in paragraph 102 of the judgement in MA v JA [2012] EWHC

2219 (Fam) “The next question is whether the marriage is in fact valid or is void. Applying the approach which has been maintained since the beginning of the 19th century, a marriage will only be held to be void if this is expressly provided by the statute. The relevant provision is section 49 of the 1949 Act. Because the parties did not knowingly and wilfully marry in breach of the requirements of the Act as specified in section 49 (essentially notice and certificate) the marriage is not void”. A issue which arises in Islamic marriage is the one of the parties entering into the marriage in ignorance and although we have clarity from the court of appeal in Her Majesty’s Attorney General (Appellant) v Nasreen Akhter & Mohammed Shabaz Khan (Respondents) & Fatima Southall Black Sisters (Intervenors) [2020] EWCA Civ 122 that a ceremony which does not adhere to the formalities will be a non-qualifying ceremony. But what if the failure was not wilful or deliberate on part of one of the parties as I have noted Q57.1 , does this then reopen the door to the formalities being implied back as in the case of near miss MA v JA [2012] and does it not resurrect the test of intention as per via Hudson v Leigh [2009] EWHC 1306 1306 (Fam which was considered as a subsidiary point in my view in Khan when the court addressed the issue of the husbands bad behaviour ruling it could not be factored into the matrix on the basis it was a future promise, but the point is that if one parties believes the other will give notice, but fails to do so but does not inform the other party, then the failure is by one party and did the party who placed reliance upon the offending party wilfully and knowingly breach Section 49? The answer would have to be no, a party unaware of an act cannot be responsible for that act in the absence of joint enterprise, but equally cannot rely on what was said to enforce what was said given Section 1(1) Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 “An agreement between two persons to marry one another shall not under the law of England and Wales have effect as a contract giving rise to legal rights and no action shall lie in England and Wales for breach of such an agreement, whatever the law applicable to the agreement - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1970/33>”. From this point one party could seek to argue compliance on the basis of intent and lead us back to the path which the commission is seeking to address. In my view to avoid this becoming a spectre regard has to be had to a joint notice being issued or notice being issued by both parties to the marriage to show that there was a failure on part of both parties. This is unless the commission seek to repeal section 49 or amend it so test is downgraded from “knowing and wilfully” to just failing to give notice.

In regards to Q58(I)(b)(i) the requirement for knowledge would raise similar issues as to any intent to deliberately avoid the requirements of the 1949 Act and as noted by Vishal Vora 2020 (The Continuing Muslim Marriage Conundrum: The Law of England and Wales on Religious Marriage and Non-Marriage in the United Kingdom, Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs, 40:1, 148-162) there is a group of women (17%) when it comes to Islamic marriages who have entered the marriage ignorance believing that it in fact was valid and using this as a bench, then will not give rise to subjective test being created as what each party knew especially where the issue of whether it was or was not a qualifying ceremony, in my view it would. By importing the subjective aspect, it could be problematic. The better wording maybe “both parties being present were aware that the officiant was not authorised”.

58.2 The issue of express consent has to be defined as taking into account the physical and mental attributes may give rise to expressing consent in more than a verbal or written manner, so it requires a formal definition. Both parties should express consent, but if the above features are not present, then should the lack of an express statement of consent in circumstances where s12 MAC 1973 does not and could not apply would seem harsh. Accordingly, a further subsection would need to be included to address this aspect which could read as follows” Should either party fail to express consent orally, in writing or in another manner which was acceptable to the authorised officiant and all other formalities having been met and consent is evidenced by a deed post the ceremony, then that ceremony would be a qualifying ceremony”. The issue in terms of Islamic marriages is less likely to encounter this form of scenario as one the perquisites is consent and that is evidenced by the signing of a written contract.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this matter

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong view on this

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes, I would agree given the implications of any marriage and the ceremony concerned , it is of the utmost importance that a party be made aware of the effects of the ceremony and where a party has placed reliance on a person, that person should be held accountable to ensure there is no repetition of the act.

In term of Islamic marriages there has been a duty on the parties to ensure that they act in line with the social justice that is envisaged and that the terms of any agreement is fair on both parties, but this often does not occur as some enter into the ceremonies in ignorance. This failure is already having an impact on some who enter in ignorance believing it is valid as well as those who are entering a valid marriage without being given an escape route which often leads to the limping marriage scenario where the Sharia councils are brought in to resolve the issue. By making it a legal requirement the officiant would have explain that any Islamic marriage which forms the marriage and which via the 1949 Act gives rise to a valid marriage does not give rise to the

power to dissolve the religious marriage by the state. Explaining the effect would mean have to explain to the parties that the terminating the legal marriage would not terminate the religious, thus, allowing for a party especially the woman to consider her position and give consideration to having a Talaq al Tawhid ( female right to divorce) incorporated into the contract pre giving consent.

2. I would agree to this as well for the reasons set out above, parties should be aware of the implications or the lack of such so that they can make an informed choice prior to any marriage taking place.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No view on this point

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that a notice should be given but I do not agree that it would be necessary to interview in all circumstances. One has to factor in the time period of the life expectancy and the availability of a person to be able to interview them, as well as the ability of the person who is terminally ill to undergo an interview.

Where the life expectancy is extremely short as in it is expected that the person will pass away in 72hours then a notice still should be given but provided medical evidence is provided that the person still has the capacity to consent to the marriage then a schedule should be issued post the registration officers speaking to the medical staff as opposed to interviewing the person. In exceptional cases where life is expected to end at times when the registrar's office is closed and there is the provision to give notice by phone and subject to the Register being satisfied post speaking to the medical staff that the person has capacity to consent but due to the severity of the illness is unable to be interviewed, then a schedule should be issued so that a marriage takes place as soon as possible.

Where the life expectancy of a terminally ill is longer than a period of 72hours and provided it does not cover a weekend then notice should be given and any interview can be held remotely to expedite the issuing of the schedule.

What would assist in these circumstances is for the process to move to a remote platform where an interview could take place not only with the parties but also the relevant medical staff who could address all the issues and allow for an expedited schedule to be issued.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong views on this

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree on this as this would give the parties sufficient time to address any issues that have arisen or may arise. The only hesitation that I would express is that with any terminal illness there is going to be decline in the health and here the issue of consent and capacity will need to be addressed and I would propose there should be a need for medical evidence to be provided before the ceremony taking place.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree to this proposal.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Given what has occurred with the issue of Covid 19, it would make sense to have such a system in place as a back up should there need arise
2. I would agree to this subject to addressing the concerns of a sham marriage or where there is a lack of capacity or consent.
3. I would agree provided the officiant is satisfied that there are no issues relating to consent and capacity.
4. I would agree to this, but consideration should be given to the use of electronic signatures by way of screen sharing or via email to try and have them recorded on one document as opposed to multiple ones.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree subject to addressing the issue of capacity and consent.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree to this subject to a proper definition being established. The question as it is framed now could be read in a wide manner as how does one define who is at risk of death? One hand it could be those who are ill, but equally it could be those are serving in the military and are about to engage in a military operation and it could be pushed to cover the emergency services who are acting in their duties if they face as risk and as Covid 19 front line NHS staff have worked in areas where there is a contagious disease thus being exposed to death.

I would propose that in the case of a national emergency then all persons who are in engaged in what the national emergency designates as a high-risk role should be afforded the extension proposed.

In terms of any patients who are ill, provided the risk is one of life again this could be extended to cover them, but one would have to have some evidence of the risk which would require some form of evidence even if it is the subjective view of a Doctor.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong views on this

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No strong views on this

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong views on this

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong views on this

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No strong views on this

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

No strong views on this

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No strong views on this

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would have to depend upon the information provided in the preliminary stages of the application as if the marriage is to take place as part of around the world trip or any other lengthy journey which cross international waters then having a fixed time to file them would be an issue. That being said we have ships today that have the technology to file the schedules electronically and given the potential issues I would propose the following;

1. An electronic copy of the schedule to be filed within 7 days where the journey is 14days or more
2. A hard copy to be filed 7 days post returning to the country in the case of a journey of 14 days or more.
3. For journeys less than 14days, a hard copy to be filed only within 7 days of returning to the UK.

The issue with as soon as reasonable as possible is that unless it is defined, it can mean different things to different people.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, if the incapacity is through no fault of the party, then there should be no fee, if it is the converse then there should be.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

One, has to have regard to the circumstances of the person concerned.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The option should be made available as location where marriages can take place.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As they are going to be aware of any local issues or planning matters that may have a bearing on the costs etc.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As Q78

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a reasonable proposal to cover any additional costs

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a reasonable proposal

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One, has to have regard to the circumstances of the person concerned.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

One, has to have regard to the fact the person has a limited time left and what they have may not be much, or that they wish to leave to others as reminder.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a reasonable proposal

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. The law does not discourage or prevent parties to marry as it provides a route all forms of marriages to take place and this includes other faiths and beliefs as well as recognising same sex unions and partnership. That being said the law as it stands can be viewed as discriminatory, a point I will address later. The law has widened the classical definition of marriage as per Lord Penzance in 1866 "Marriage as understood in Christendom is the voluntary union for life of one man & one woman, to the exclusion of all others" (Hyde v Hyde and Woodmansee 1866 [LR] 1.P.D.130 ) as this has to be read in the light of The Civil Partnership Act 2004, The Gender Recognition Act 2004, The Marriage (Same sex Couples) Act and The Civil Partnership, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019. Whilst there may be issues as recently noted by the courts the law does not discourage or prevent marriage.

The 1949 Act will recognise any ceremony which can include a religious one as a qualifying ceremony (Section 45 MA 1949) which can become legal & valid provided the a certificate has been issued by a registrar under section 26(1) (a), the marriage takes place on approved premises in the registration area (section 26(1) (bb)) and the trustees or the governing body of the premises have nominated an 'authorised person section 43(1) & 43B(1) MA 1949) which means that any person who is registered can carry out the ceremony in any form (section 44(1) MA 1949) in a place with open doors in the presence of 2 witnesses (section 44(2) MA 1949) & as part of the ceremony the parties make a declaration under Section 44(3) MA 1949 or under Section 44(3A) MA 1949. This then allows for most to be caught by these provisions and one has to say the law encourages the marriages by way of recognising them provided the formalities are adhered to. Should they not be followed then the courts have sought to import it in via the test of intention as developed by Hudson v Leigh [2009] EWHC 1306 1306 (Fam) as well as the near miss test when it comes to wilfully breaching the 1949 Act as per the ruling in MA v JA [2012] EWHC 2219 (Fam). The issues of the law as it standing when it comes to the issue of formality last being considered in Her Majesty's Attorney General (Appellant) v Nasreen Akhter & Mohammed Shabaz Khan (Respondents) & Fatima d Southall Black Sisters (Interveners) [2020] EWCA Civ 122 which settled the issue. Whilst marriage is a matter of individual choice as a person is free to marry in accordance with Article 12 ECHR, which has meant that the state has not impose its will on this issue. Provided there is compliance with the current law the status of the parties will move from being single to one of being legally married. If the person choses a method other than following the 1949 Act, then the status will not alter & the courts will treat this marriage as a non-qualifying ceremony.

One has to have regard to whether the law as it stands can be seen as being is discriminatory in its application. This issue of discrimination was considered in Harrison v Secretary of State for Justice [2020] EWHC 2096 (Admin) where the Court took the view that if a Humanist was to be treated differently on the basis of their beliefs when compared to a recognised religious person then it would give rise to discrimination provided there was compliance with the 1949 Act). From this perspective it would discourage parties from having a religious marriage as they are only given the opportunity for a civil marriage, hence why it is seen as being discriminatory in its application. The same issues that were raised in Harrison v Secretary of State for Justice [2020] EWHC 2096 (Admin) could be applied to Islamic marriages as it belongs to the Abrahamic family of religions and to only provide the civil route is to treat them differently, the same could be said of other faiths and as noted by the commission at para 1.49, page 14.

The current law when it comes to Muslims wanting to marry is that the starting point is the parties will want to observe their religious obligations and the parties will want to have an Islamic marriage which is in essence a contract (Khadduri, M. (1978). *Marriage in Islamic Law: The Modernist Viewpoints*. The American Journal of Comparative Law, 26(2), 213-218. doi:10.2307/839669). Muslims believe that a marriage should be in accordance with the laws of God, thus to follow this route is to sanctify the marriage (Uddin, Islam. (2018). *Nikah-only Marriages: Causes, Motivations, and Their Impact on Dispute Resolution and Islamic Divorce Proceedings in England and Wales*. Oxford Journal of Law and Religion. 7. 401-426. 10.1093/ojlr/rwy051.). In essence a Muslims will marry on the basis of their vertical relationship with God which based upon covenants made and then the covenants made will be applied on a horizontal basis to humans. This means that they cannot just follow the civil route which currently prohibits the use of religious wording but can in the alternative follow the gate way provided for a ceremony instead, this is where the issue arises when it comes to the number of registered mosques being a reflection of the number of registered persons who can officiate a marriage and given the trend for Muslim marriages to take place at home or wedding halls adds to the issue. A majority of Islamic marriages as Akhtar 2018 (Akhtar, Rajnaara, *Modern Traditional in Muslims Marriage, Practice, Exploring English Narrative*, Oxford Journal of Law & Religion, 2018, 427-454.) notes will take place in unregistered premises resulting in non-compliance with the 1949 Act given the lack of registered mosques. Hence, the law may not discourage Muslims, it does not certainly encourage them to use the 1949 Act.

As it stands provided there is compliance with the law all forms of ceremonies can be recognised as a path to a valid marriage, this was an issue that I addressed in my thesis and I will quote from that "The MA 1949 is wide enough to allow ceremonies of all faiths to be recognised as valid marriages, provided they follow the formalities, if they do not, they will not be recognised. This requirement does not apply to overseas marriages as they will be covered by the *lex loci celebrationis* principle unless it is known that the overseas marriage was not a qualifying marriage, and which required a registry marriage to make it legally recognised (*Hudson v Leigh*). For the *lex loci celebrationis* principle to apply, the marriage must be recognised and registered in the foreign country, in other words the courts and the law require both formality and certainty (Bantekas, Ilias 2013), *Transnational Talq (Divorce) in English Courts*; Law Meets Culture Pages 43-44-) when it comes to a marriage, intention is not enough". Provided the marriage is recognised in the country in which it takes place then it will be recognised and the position was set out by LJ Lloyd Jones in *Awuku v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2017] EWCA Civ 178 (23 March 2017) Para 15 "In the law of England and Wales the general rule is that the formal validity of a marriage is governed by the law of the country where the marriage was celebrated ('the *lex loci celebrationis*') (Dicey, Morris and Collins on the Conflicts of Laws, 15th Ed., (2012), Rule 73). The editors of Dicey, Morris and Collins explain (at 17-004) that a marriage celebrated in the mode or according to the rites or ceremonies required by the law of the country where the marriage takes place is, as far as formal requisites go, valid. In general the law of a country where a marriage is solemnised must alone decide all questions relating to the validity of the ceremony by which the marriage is alleged to have been constituted. (*Sottomayor v De Barros* (No.1) (1877) 3 P.D. 1, 5 (CA)) A marriage by proxy will be treated as valid in England if recognised by the local law, even if one of the parties is domiciled and resident in England and the power of attorney authorising the proxy to act is executed in England. The transaction is not contrary to public policy (Dicey, Morris and Collins 17-012). In *Apt v Apt* [1948] P. 83 the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of Lord Merriman P. at first instance ([1947] P. 127) where he stated (at p. 147): "The celebration of marriage by proxy is a matter of the form of the ceremony or proceeding, and not an essential of the marriage; that there is nothing abhorrent to Christian ideas in the adoption of that form; and that, in the absence of legislation to the contrary, there is no doctrine of public policy which entitles me to hold that the ceremony, valid where it was performed, is not effective in this country to constitute a valid marriage."

In my view the law caters for religious groups, when I say religious groups, those who have a belief in a supreme being which covers the Christian, Jewish and Quaker faiths other beliefs have to follow the route of a qualifying ceremony, one where a civil registry wedding can take place and the second is where there is a qualifying ceremony and applying the position in *Harrison v Secretary of State for Justice* [2020] EWHC 2096 (Admin) then it is arguable that other beliefs are being placed in a different position and being treated differently, but it does not encourage all marriages to be valid by the formalities that need to be complied with.

In terms of those who are overseas resident who want to marry in England and Wales they need to comply with Appendix V of the Immigration Rules and be able to show as part of an application under Appendix V that arrangements have been put in place with the registrar's office as notice has been given, confirmation of any bookings of a venue and consideration will be given by the Entry Clearance Officer as to whether the intended relationship is genuine, so evidence of this will need to be provided. Provided the immigration rules are complied with meaning the person is over 18, they have means to support themselves and intend to enter for the purposes of marriage, then they will be given Entry Clearance for the purpose of marriage.

2. It will and it will not, this will depend on where the parties sit when it comes to how the law views them, those who marry are automatically eligible for recognition ie Christian, Jews, same sex couples, etc then for these it would do so. Looking at the issue from an Islamic marriage and other faith based marriages it would not occur in the same manner as the formalities still have to be complied with to give rise to a valid marriage and as I noted in my thesis "The proposals would simplify this process but formalities would remain and they would not put the Nikah on an equal footing but could increase voidable marriages arising as opposed to them being non-qualifying which would allow for financial relief as per sections 22 to 25 The Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, Administration of Estates Act 1925, section 46; Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975, section 1(1)(a).) but still leaves the potential for the 'limping marriage'. The starting point for Muslims is the Islamic marriage which will be the requirement is that the premises as well as the person performing the marriage is to be registered in addition to the notice being given, then the position for Muslims remains as it was before, the only added layer of compensation being that it could give rise to more voidable marriages. This equally would apply to other faith-based marriages as well, as one would have to look to see how many places of worship were registered etc in the same way as considering the issue for Muslims. What it would give rise to is the potential for more voidable marriages arising

However, there is likely to be little impact given that Muslim marriages are not automatically recognised, but provided the gateway provided was followed the Islamic marriage would be recognised.

In conclusion I will rely on what I noted in my Thesis "The position adopted by the previous reviews and what is proposed by the 2020 Law Commission do not provide any real solution; streamlining the process only means some Nikahs will become voidable but if the main formalities are not complied with they will still give rise to a non-qualifying ceremony (Law Commission (2020) *Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law* (Law Com paper No 247), OGL, 3rd September 2020, paragraph 10;191- page 307) as they may be in the "interest of the state" (Law Commission (2020) *Getting Married: A*

Consultation Paper on Weddings Law (Law Com paper No 247), OGL, 3rd September 2020 at paragraphs 10;2page 263) . In regards to the streamlined process there is a point to note that in the absence of a change in the law which would require all places who wish to conduct a ceremony to be registered, to have an authorised (officiant) person and be able to give notice as to the marriage then it would not increase the number of valid marriages. But in the absence of the change in the law, it could give rise to more voidable marriages where one of the parties held a belief that the ceremony was being conducted by an authorised person. In my view the 2020 proposals provide no real solution given there is already a gateway and individuals are entering Nikahs not only through ignorance but also through choice and in the case of the latter, is the streamlined process going to dissuade them? Even if it does and more follow this process, giving rise to valid marriages, there is still the issue that a Nikah itself cannot be terminated by the State. Even if one day the law does recognise Muslim marriages, the State would not be able end them without creating a mechanism of Sharia based courts who would have the power to bring them to an end”.

In terms of those who were wanting to marry in England and Wales have to comply with Appendix V of the Immigration Rules and be able to show as part of an application under Appendix V that arrangement have been put in place with the registrar’s office as notice has been given, confirmation of any bookings of a venues and consideration will be given by the Entry Clearance Officer as to whether the intended relationship is genuine, so evidence of this will need to be provided. Provided the immigration rules are complied with meaning the person is over 18, they have means to support themselves and intend to enter for the purposes of marriage.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views on this

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No views on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No views on this

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views on this

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. There is no impact upon them provided there is compliance with the law of the land in which they intend to marry and provided that have followed the laws that are required then the marriage will be recognised in this country. The MA 1949 is wide enough to allow ceremonies of all faiths to be recognised as valid marriages, provided they follow the formalities, if they do not, they will not be recognised. This requirement does not apply to overseas marriages as they will be covered by the lex loci celebrationis principle unless it is known that the overseas marriage was not a qualifying marriage, and which required a registry marriage to make it legally recognised (Hudson v Leigh). For the lex loci celebrationis principle to apply, the marriage must be recognised and registered in the foreign country, in other words the courts and the law require both formality and certainty (Bantekas, Ilias 2013) , Transnational Talq (Divorce) in English Courts; Law Meets Culture Pages 43-44-) when it comes to a marriage, intention is not enough”. Provided the marriage is recognised in the country in which it takes places then it will be recognised and the position was set out LJ Lloyd Jones in Awuku v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2017] EWCA Civ 178 (23 March 2017) Para 15 “In the law of England and Wales the general rule is that the formal validity of a marriage is governed by the law of the country where the marriage was celebrated (“the lex loci celebrationis”) (Dicey, Morris and Collins on the Conflicts of Laws, 15th Ed., (2012), Rule 73). The editors of Dicey, Morris and Collins explain (at 17-004) that a marriage celebrated in the mode or according to the rites or ceremonies required by the law of the country where the marriage takes place is, as far as formal requisites go, valid. In general the law of a country where a marriage is solemnised must alone decide all questions relating to the validity of the ceremony by which the marriage is

alleged to have been constituted. (Sottomayor v De Barros (No.1) (1877) 3 P.D. 1, 5 (CA)) A marriage by proxy will be treated as valid in England if recognised by the local law, even if one of the parties is domiciled and resident in England and the power of attorney authorising the proxy to act is executed in England. The transaction is not contrary to public policy (Dicey, Morris and Collins 17-012). In Apt v Apt [1948] P. 83 the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of Lord Merriman P. at first instance ([1947] P. 127) where he stated (at p. 147): "The celebration of marriage by proxy is a matter of the form of the ceremony or proceeding, and not an essential of the marriage; that there is nothing abhorrent to Christian ideas in the adoption of that form; and that, in the absence of legislation to the contrary, there is no doctrine of public policy which entitles me to hold that the ceremony, valid where it was performed, is not effective in this country to constitute a valid marriage." Thus, there is no impact apart from the marriage being recognised on the basis of international law and whatever the form they have used, provided it complied with the law of that country, then their status as being married validly will be recognised.

2. In terms of those who were wanting to marry in England and Wales have to comply with Appendix V of the Immigration Rules and be able to show as part of an application under Appendix V that arrangements have been put in place with the registrar's office as notice has been given, confirmation of any bookings of a venue and consideration will be given by the Entry Clearance Officer as to whether the intended relationship is genuine, so evidence of this will need to be provided. Provided the immigration rules are complied with meaning the person is over 18, they have means to support themselves and intend to enter for the purposes of marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Whilst the Commission seeks to streamline the process to make England and Wales more attractive for the purposes of marriage, one has to have regard to the impact of the Immigration rules in particular Appendix V which has been updated and the online process which follows. In addition to this one has to have regard to the 'hostile environment' that has developed resulting in the refusal of visas under this section. In order to make the countries more appealing to overseas nationals wanting to marry, then the immigration rules need to be revisited as currently any party who wishes to marry has to cross a number of hurdles to satisfy an Entry Clearance Officer that the parties' intentions are not to remain in the England and Wales post the marriage as well as showing they have sufficient ties to their own countries as well as being able to prove that the relationship is actually genuine.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views on this

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No views on this

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHJ-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-22 11:59:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think interviews could take place remotely via an online video conference,

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

i feel there should be provision for wedding ceremonies to take place in the home setting.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDXX-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-22 12:28:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Personal response

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My wife and I were handfasted in England [REDACTED] in 2008. This was our formal, religious, wedding involving family and friends. We were aware at the time that it was not legally recognised. Therefore, we arranged another handfasting in Scotland, in front of the required witnesses and registered celebrant, in 2009, where the ceremony is legally recognised.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We chose to have a handfasting as the most relevant form of ceremony in our faith (Paganism). It gave us the freedom to design the ceremony and our vows to suit us. We wrote the entire ceremony. The ceremony was conducted by friends, including a priest and priestess from the local coven. We also did not want to be married in a registry as they are generally dismal places, and much preferred an outside setting. We used the garden of a B&B, giving us a backup location in case of bad weather. As pagans, an outside venue is of particular importance to us.

In the case of our legal handfasting in Scotland, we were able to use an ancient site as our venue.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, because we had a second, legal handfasting in Scotland.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

As above our preference was for a handfasting outdoors. Current law in England & Wales does not recognise outdoor venues, nor handfasting as a ceremony (I believe). So we got married using our chosen venue and ceremony anyway. But then took the opportunity of Scottish law to get married legally at a later date.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is sensible to allow people more freedom. It also provides for couples that prefer to be married close to the family and/or where they were brought up but reside elsewhere. The only downside is that some locations may find themselves inundated with weddings.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, as this is the process we had to follow in order to be married in Scotland. My wife and I made all arrangements by telephone, completed the relevant forms and returned them by post and had a short in-person meeting at the registry office before the wedding date.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

When we were married in Scotland we picked up the relevant paperwork from the registrar one or two days prior to the wedding. I cannot see anything to be gained by a minimum time frame. It should factor around the couples availability and wedding date. However, perhaps a maximum time limit should be given after which the paperwork expires if the wedding has not taken place.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If the relevant paperwork needs to be collected from the official registrar's office it makes sense that an in-person interview takes place at the same time. It makes sense for a 'check' to be in place - whereby the couple have to be seen by the registrar (or celebrant) in advance to ensure consent, check ID etc.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If the aim is to make the ability to give notice more flexible it makes sense to retain this provision.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is sensible, as long as the exemption in case of a risk of harm is applied.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the process (as above) is to be simplified and access to the paperwork ('schedule') simplified then 12 months seems excessive. But I have no strong views on the subject.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems perfectly sensible.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems perfectly sensible.

Please share your views below:

No opinion.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems perfectly sensible.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The 'notice of weddings' is proposed to be made public online, which I support. This should be the same for every wedding whether secular or non-secular.

If the church wishes to also publish 'banns' that should be the decision of the church in question.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Surely, every celebrant should have the power to check the evidence and be required to meet with the couple before the wedding but preferably before the notice of marriage is published. Ideally, the registrars' office should be responsible for checking the required documentation before publishing the notice of marriage or schedule.

If the intent is to broaden the scope of the marriage legislation then these powers should not be limited to any one religious group. Everyone should be treated equally.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As above, everyone should be treated equally. If this requirement is needed, and it makes sense that it is, then it should be included in all marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense to include the required 'civil' preliminaries in all weddings whether secular or non-secular. The process needs to be applied equally to all.

Any additional requirements based on the faith (or not) of the couple and/or their chosen wedding ceremony, can be added based on the faith (or not) to which the couple subscribe.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems sensible. However, what do you mean by the term 'officiant'. Is this another 'officer' separate from the celebrants. By celebrants, I mean the religious ceremony leader(s) (priest/priestess) or non-religious leader of the ceremony. For simplicity, it makes sense that the recognised celebrant should take on the role of the officiant and ensure that items 1-3 above are conducted. The only exception might be where the couple conduct the ceremony without celebrants (or they themselves are trained celebrants), in which case another person should probably be appointed as an independent officiant.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the registrars trained to conduct weddings in one or more faiths then surely they could do so. If not then, civil only.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming that clerk is the same as clergy in this context, then yes assuming they also have the relevant training (see below)

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in theory that makes sense. However, it would have been more useful to give the description itself rather than the reference to the precedent.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems a fair proposal. The reforms suggested should be applied equally regardless of the nature of one's belief system.

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible.



Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It seems sensible to exclude organisations that promote purposes that are unlawful etc. But note that the list of exclusions should be regularly reviewed, as what is considered contrary to public morality changes over time, for example, same-sex marriage, homosexuality etc.

I presume that the concept of 'public morality' is part of legal practice. But perhaps it should be clearly defined, in line with international standards (e.g. human rights) rather than just 'national' definitions.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

It is proposed that couples and celebrants meet before the wedding, which is a one-to-one, in-person meeting. It is the 'person' that officiates or conducts the ceremony, not an 'office', although they may hold an official title. Officiants (celebrants) are individuals and should therefore be named. Also, not all religious and non-religious organisations are hierarchical, with any defined 'office', or 'clergy'.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense to use an existing system rather than invent something new.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Will, there be any 'checks' or 'requirements' made on 'independent' officiants in line with those made by nominating organisations.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems sensible. But there should be national guidance as to what a 'fit and proper person' means, as in q31 below. Membership of a religious body or the holding of a religious office is no guarantee in itself, and any criteria should be applied equally.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That makes sense. But 'mandatory training' should be defined and applied equally to all 'officiants' whether independent or nominated by a religious or non-religious body.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Registrars are paid to officiate at weddings. While they have other duties I presume they make their living this way. Wedding planners can make a living by organising weddings. It seems unfair to exclude 'nominated officiants' from this possibility.

My wife and I have officiated a few handfastings. This is part of our service to our spiritual community and we only ask expenses in return. However, the ceremony can take several days over several weeks to write and organise, as well as travel and the day itself. I know that others charge more for their time and preparation but it is still a supplement to living expenses rather than a business. But others do consider 'celebrancy' an important part of the income as well as an important part of their service to their spiritual community. If the aim is to ensure a supply of suitably trained (see Q31) celebrants then remuneration must be considered, if not only to pay for training. The training is expensive (ca £750+/course) and many take out career development loans in order to pay for the training.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This makes no sense. What does 'conflict of interest' actually mean?

Why should independent celebrants be able to charge but 'nominated officiants' not? You cannot assume that all religious and non-religious organisation have the funds to pay for the work of the officiants they nominate. The 'church' pays its clergy but is that true of other religious organisations? Hopefully, the aim is to provide a level playing field for all officiants, while not inflating the market and, hence, the cost for couples and their family.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The intent is to provide more flexibility so this makes sense. But it suggests some confusion regarding the 'nominated officiants' and 'independent officiants'. Within paganism, for example, all priest/priestesses are independent, although they may belong to one or more pagan (religious) organisations or none, may be nominated celebrants (e.g. in Scotland) or provide celebrancy services independently.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an important part of the officiant/celebrant/priest/priestesses role. Marriage is a serious commitment and should be seen as such. But it should not mean that the couple cannot enjoy their wedding day and wedding ceremony. Again it would help if the terms 'dignity' and 'solemnity' were defined in the context of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is well researched and takes into account the different religious and non-religious beliefs and practices at weddings.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That makes sense, but also with the Registrars Office.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That makes sense

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That makes sense but see the answer to q34

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That makes sense

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as long as the relevant CPD is clearly defined. And again (see q34) why is this requirement only for independent officiants and not nominated officiants. Surely, relevant clergy are required to undertake relevant CPD. This rule should be applied equally.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps 1b should be expressed as 'no legal requirement' in case the relevant belief system does have that requirement, and/or the couple wish to make that statement.

### Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems in the spirit of the proposed reforms.

### Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This clause seems to suggest that there will be special rules on the form of weddings in other beliefs. Again, I'd prefer the rules or lack of rules to be applied equally.

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems in the spirit of the proposed reforms, i.e. flexibility. does this also mean that the term marriage will also apply to civil ceremonies? I believe it should.

Please share your views below:

I believe it should be agreed between the couple and the officiant/registrar. If the officiant/registrar does not feel they have the relevant expertise to conduct a wedding with the couples preferred content then another officiant can be found. But perhaps there will need to be a balance. If a couple desires a significant amount of religious content then they should have a religious ceremony. The registrar/officiant should provide relevant advice/guidance.

### Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible

### Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming it is safe to do so.

Please share your views below:

As long as the formal requirement can be met, the officiant and couple agree, and it is safe to do so, with relevant risk assessments etc.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is in keeping with q48

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In each case, the owner/operator of the religious or non-religious venue or business venue (hotel etc.) should have the right to refuse or agree. Otherwise, you may create a situation where a venue is forced to conduct a ceremony with which they disagree due to their own beliefs and result in unnecessary conflict.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Mainly yes. Ultimately it is the couple's decision. But the officiant should provide sensible advice on the suitability of the venue for the ceremony. If the venue is unsafe (e.g. mountain top) for the couple or guests ( experienced mountaineers may be an exception in this example), or if the venue is too loud for the ceremony to be heard/witnessed etc. The officiant should discuss the logistics and safety of the ceremony with the couple to identify and agree the ideal and/or practical venue. If the officiant does not feel the venue is suitable but cannot agree with the couple then the officiant must have the right to decline the ceremony.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to q51. But what does 'dignified' mean. It requires definition. Nudity (skyclad) may be part of a pagan ceremony and considered perfectly 'dignified'. Many faiths may include singing and dancing as part of the ceremony. A wedding is a couples 'special' day and it is right that they 'enjoy' and remember that day. As long as the couple understand and embrace the commitment they are making to one another then that is the most important requirement.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is good as long as it covers a wide variety of religious and non-religious practice.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense to maintain a register of approved locations and venues to help couples chose a venue suitable for their day, as long as venue and locations are not limited to the approved list.

Please share your views below:

It makes sense that the registrar's office should maintain and publish a national list online. It should be made available to other organisations if required, although if it is online it would not be needed.

Presumably, the current religious and non-religious organisations and independent celebrants (and their associations) would be able to provide lists of existing venues or location currently in use and add to the list over time. Perhaps the officiants could rank venues/locations based on their experience.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should this also include 'legal guardians' and/or 'adoptive parents' where one or more biological parents are unknown?

### Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does this mean 'in England and Wales' the regions or in 'English and Welsh' the languages? If the later then why not add our other native tongue 'Cornish', or the myriad other languages that are currently spoken in the UK as options.

### Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible, as long as oversight and checking are part of the process.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1-3 make sense. No comment on 4 as I do not understand why that requires a special dispensation.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense that failure to follow the legal procedures would void the process.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Part 1 is similar to q57. Part 2, it is essential that both parties give consent.

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We cannot assume that co-habitation is always possible.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems sensible.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems fair.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes sense to protect the post of 'officiant' to ensure that only those willing and able to undertake relevant training are regarded as 'officiants'.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The process should be the same as for all other except where the illness affects mobility, or their ability to communicate, in which case the registrar should go to the applicant rather than expect the applicant to come to them.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does this mean that the distinction between a civil ceremony and a marriage is removed? If so, this would be a good idea.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It might be sensible to give a time limit but the nature of the illness should be taken into account. The 12-month limit should be a guidance value, not a prerequisite.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems sensible but the conditions for the emergency provisions should be specified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems fair.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it will depend on the nature of the illness.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as it is safe to do so.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Shipping designed for passengers, e.g. passenger ferries might be suitable, assuming the duration of the ferry crossing is long enough to accommodate the ceremony in full (without rushing it). Common sense guidance should be provided.

There are safety issues associated with cargo and other vessels that would require common sense guidance.

Also, vessels may need to be registered as 'venues' to ensure they satisfy the 'UK registration' requirements.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why the change in procedure. If couples need to state the venue and officiant on land they should do so at sea. If the couple intends to be married by a Captain, then the Captain would have been a trained/registered 'officiant'. Alternatively, the couple would need to organise an officiant to accompany them at sea. Either way, the 'officiant' could be named.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the 'officers' in question require all the requirements/training of independent officiants outlined in earlier questions.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As q72

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As q72 and 73

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Care should be taken that weddings in international waters create a loophole in the marriage procedures. Perhaps this is a situation where the couple should be expected to return the schedule remotely with a slightly longer time period than usual but be expected to then submit the written versions as soon as reasonably possible but no longer than, say 6 months.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems sensible as long as it is set nationally on a cost-recovery basis and is 'affordable'.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The proposals above seem to suggest that marriage can be a religious and non-religious ceremony, with the required civil elements to make the ceremony legally recognised. Therefore, what would be the difference or benefit of a 'civil ceremony'. If there is a benefit, then it should be retained.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is sensible. But please refer to comments above about how 'dignified' is defined.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is sensible.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is sensible

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is sensible

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is sensible

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

My preference would be for option 2 but understand the need for option 1.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

That is sensible, as long as it is applied equally to all religious and non-religious organisations, and independent officiants, and that an affordability test is included when the fee is set.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law prevented my wife and I from having a legal marriage in England & Wales. We held our religious ceremony anyway and were married in our eyes. Subsequently, we had to travel from Devon to Scotland to hold a second, legally recognised, wedding. We were able to afford to travel and hold two weddings. Many others may not have been able to afford to do so or may have not been physically capable or well enough to do so.

The proposals suggested in this consultation would probably result in more couples being legally married.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The increased number of venues/locations available to weddings may increase competition and drive down prices. But it might also allow some to try to exploit the situation and open more but less suitable venues to weddings. It is difficult to predict the effect on costs but there will need to be more oversight to licensed venues by the registrar's office and officiants.

Re point 5, if the new provisions recognise religious and non-religious ceremonies (that include the relevant legal requirements) then the need for a separate legal wedding will be removed.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No opinion

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It could remove the need to travel to Scotland to get legally married (see q85). It might not make a difference to overseas jurisdictions if the main reason for travel is the scenery.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above, see q85.

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The ship registry would need to be a) up to date and b) readily available for independent scrutiny. Hopefully, it already is.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The proposed changes should not be used as a means of creating a larger market and making money. Any fees should be cost-recovery based and subject to an affordability test, and where practicable (and ideally) set nationally.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDH4-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-22 15:44:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As an Authorized Person for marriages, we have recently had marriages from Europe and Australia, i feel the new proposals would simplify things much more and would enable more flexibility particularly if couples choose to perform the ceremony at home.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would have thought that if the wedding was booked via a portal then the 7 days would not be necessary.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Simplicity is key in my opinion.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

agree with this.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

in our church we have 2 persons that can officiate, this is helpful if the proposed officiant is unwell or unable to officiate.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDH3-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-23 15:30:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

Personal opinions reflect my position as an independent celebrant

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

None of my ceremonies are recognised by law.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All of my couples verbally confirm to me in our face to face meetings that they understand the ceremony is not legally binding.

I do not refer to my ceremonies as being a wedding and instead use ceremony or celebration of marriage.

On all my quotes I include the link to the gov.uk website that describes the legalities and fees associated with legal weddings as well as civil ceremonies.

<https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships>

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many tell me that it is difficult to secure the date they want or they are not able to get married in their choice of location (the majority of my ceremonies are in barns, woodlands or other outdoor spaces).

Couples often tell me that they are not given the full price list of services they are offered and usually are quoted one fee for going out to a licensed venue or another fee for a registry office wedding, they are rarely quoted for the 2x£46 ceremony and restrict access to this service if they are transparent about

it i.e the couple is only offered one Wednesday a month for this type of service.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Several couples cite the access to pensions and marital rights as the reason for getting married legally over having a ceremony not recognised by law. The majority of my couples always intend to have their marriage legally solemnised but it have encountered problems due to getting the dates they were after or being able to have a ceremony in a non licensed venue.

two of my couples had issues with legal name changes - one was waiting for a divorce to become absolute and another was changing their name by deed-poll and it was important to them to be able to use their chosen name over their legal one.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

My couple come to me because of the following;

- A short time line or change of date the registrar can't accommodate
- Location - want to marry in a non licensed venue (the majority of my ceremonies are in barns, woodlands and outside venues)
- There is an issue with using a chosen name due to divorce or change in deed poll
- There is a desire to include a prayer or song that means would not be allowed in a legal wedding.
- There is a theme to the wedding that means it may not be viewed as solemn or dignified enough (I've had matching football kits, Game of Thrones, Vikings & Flower Fairies to one couple who ran a hedgehog sanctuary being dressed as hedgehogs!)

I never refer to my ceremonies as a wedding, service or a marriage, using instead choosing ceremony or celebration of marriage.

Although I use vows I never use the legally binding phrases or pronounce my couple as husband and wife, choosing to announce them or introduce them as Mr&MRs ???

I want to be able to offer the option to offer a legal ceremony to my couples that can incorporate all of the elements that are important to them, no matter the location, theme, religious or cultural significance within them.

I do not think it is right or fair that one group of people may be allowed to do this (Humanists) in a way that is still restrictive, when there are others (Independents) who outnumber their counterparts significantly.

I do believe there should be an industry standard with risk assessments for times like these and types of venues; where everyone is trained appropriately and have to adhere to a code of conduct but are allowed to be creative, personalise ceremonies and operate in locations that would not have previously been considered.

Everyone should be a member of a representative group such as the WCC, have Liability Insurance and if required pay a member ship fee so that their couples can have a right to complain if they do not feel standards have been met or professionalism/integrity is upheld.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

This year has almost destroyed my celebrant business, I have only been able to conduct one ceremony but have earned no income as it was paid for two years ago when planned.

If I didn't also have a full time job I would have earned £590 this year and had more of that go out in marketing and professional membership fees.

I am not able to claim financial aid due to not having enough self employed history for a grant and my husband earning too much to allow me to claim for Universal Credit, so I have had to look to the future with the knowledge that I may only be conducting ceremonies and earning an income from the people that were booked for this year and have rescheduled to next.

This year has meant that my couples have gone from no wedding to 30 people to 15 to 6. As a celebrant we were recognised in one update, classed as part of a reception in another and then forced to read between the lines as a 'non belief based ceremony'.

Couples who hold love at the centre of their reason to marry do not have an issue adapting and for the most part vendors have been able to move people around.

There are some couples that get married so everyone can see them and it becomes about the spectacle and for these people Covid has really stopped them having the grand affairs they may have always visualised and this has shattered numerous dreams.

Some businesses have chosen to apply a fee to all those who have rescheduled couples into next year otherwise they would make no money for a second year but to the outside looking in this can seem unscrupulous. I have relocated all my couples for free and will do so again if need be, money is not why I got into being a celebrant.

The biggest frustrations I have encountered is that you could have 140 people in a socially distanced pub or restaurant but as soon as you put a Bride and Groom amongst them the number reduced to 30/15/6. There is no logical decision to shut down events where precautions can be taken to socially distance yet allow herds of people in supermarkets, movie theatres or museums, especially given the income that the weddings and events industries generate for the Government.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The reality is that nowadays people migrate.

There are as many couples who want to get married in the UK who have been resident overseas as there are the other way round.

One of my couples had to live with their elderly nan for a month before their wedding because it was really important that she was at the event yet she would have been too frail to travel elsewhere.

Couples should be able to give notice of their intention to marry which could be posted on one centralised data base rather than having restrictions based on their Parish/County/Country etc

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In a world where everything has an online portal and where you can renew your passport and driving licence online, why should you not be able to do that when it comes to marriages?

I do fully agree that there is still a need to check the legalities in a face to face though incase of abuse/sham marriages

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be time to check the evidence of documentation where required.

I also feel there should be special dispensation for those that may have a terminal illness so ceremonies can be performed with a very short turn around where required.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree - Covid has taught us that we need to embrace technology.

If we are to facilitate the opportunity for people to be married from overseas in the UK whether needing to be resident first then this has to be an option.

If a wedding is being undertaken a short notice due to terminal illness, then it should be possible for the doctor to confirm the identity of their patient (NHS Number, Name and Date of Birth verified by a drivers licence or passport should be sufficient) and they can also judge capacity to consent.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree.

Why shouldn't people from outside the UK be allowed to marry here if they are both Non-UK/Commonwealth Residents?

It maybe that the lead times are longer but I have significant number of American friends who want the Downton wedding or to theme it based on The Crown.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can check the VIN on my car and understand its history online - why should I not be to do this with my prospective Husband/Wife?

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure why this needs to be limited so have no over riding opinion.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For those of us who belong to a membership body and have local colleagues then we should be able to agree a substitute officiant where required.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No View

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No View

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I would imagine there can be a centralised electronic record for this too???

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Religious bodies should follow the same regulations as everyone else

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It sometimes feels as if the registration service is trying to play the best of both worlds and be legally binding registrars but also offer celebrant services along side. There needs to be a distinction that either everyone can do everything or a clear divide between the legal/non-legal options.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that if Independent Celebrants are allowed to complete legal weddings they should be able to nominate someone who is part of that professional body, where there is evidence that they have membership of that group, adequate insurance and adherence to the agreed codes of conduct. All of this could be evidenced online.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, there would need to be a clear differentiation between what these non-religious belief systems are allowed to do as part of their ceremonies and how this differs from an independent celebrant. For example - it seems massively hypocritical to present oneself as 'non-religious' and then allow for religious elements to be brought into the ceremony. At this current moment in time you are not able to introduce a religious element into a registry office wedding so why should that be different in this case. The benefit of having an independent celebrant is that we are able to offer all elements to a couple whether there is a religious or cultural element or not. Equally, if only Humanist, for example, are allowed to conduct the legal ceremonies in the future, everyone should be given the opportunity to register themselves as Humanist, currently you can only be a Humanist Celebrant if you trained with them.

Please share your views below:

I do believe that officiants should be part of a membership group but not necessarily that they should be separated between

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This question is not clear.....

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I think there has to be a complaints process, possibly an ombudsman. No group or independent celebrant should be allowed to promote illegal activity and having a clear set of operating standards would mean we all followed the same guidance protecting both the service provider and the wedding party. Morality will need a clear definition.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

If 'by office' you mean someone with a specific title then I can only think that this would exist more in a religious organisation than non. If you are referring to 'by office' as about location then this makes sense, however there needs to be scope that if the style of wedding is to be considered i.e. Steampunk, there are only certain celebrants that would conduct this style of wedding, therefore if it is location based nomination this may be difficult as there may be no-one available in Essex but Birmingham might have someone therefore couples should be free to find someone who fits with the style and not be tethered by geography.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a central registration point. We need to be sure that this list is accessible to all to view (probably online) as I would have concerns other transparency and whether celebrants (religious or otherwise) would be given as much exposure as registrars or Humanists. Currently there are databases where people can search for celebrants in a geographical area, worldwide, that does not differentiate between Humanist and Non-Humanists (The Celebrant Directory) and a profile of each celebrant is available which leads to contact pages and websites etc

You can pay for higher rankings in the situation however most couples contact numerous celebrants within that area to ascertain price points, personalities and points of difference - it is this I would want to see from a public list of all nominated officiants

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Or to whomever holds this list.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be clear pricing and this should be the same for all officiants, religious or not. However there does need to be some consideration of geographical differences and also that if a particular officiant travelled between these geographical differences then the difference in rate should be agreed with the couple.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be clear pricing and this should be the same for all officiants, religious or not. However there does need to be some consideration of geographical differences and also that if a particular officiant travelled between these geographical differences then the difference in rate should be agreed with the couple.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Your category and the code of conduct you follow should be clear for people to see and understand. I feel we need a 'Sale of Goods Act' mentality when differentiating the cans and can not's and the officiant should be as described on the tin!!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within a clear definition/code of practice  
Consideration should be given to themes, costume and styling.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again there needs to be scope to be able to personalise a ceremony and include religious/cultural elements.  
A working Framework is key, especially if there is to be an introduction of a right to complain.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would expect that if my conduct or the standard of my service met with a complaint there would be an independent review of this complaint based on evidence presented.

If there was a clear case to answer and it could be proven that I had breached the guidance within an operating framework/code of practice then I would be removed from the register OR there would be a need for retraining.

There is no reason why complaints should not be able to be publicised online, lots of companies have a TrustPilot survey linked to them, there should be no reason why officials are not able to have the same, currently we all rely on Google reviews and testimonials on our websites to help us promote our businesses.

I work in a clinical environment so am familiar with the GDC/GMC/GOC and would be happy if I had to pay for membership to a body like this that would recognise my qualifications, CPD, Indemnity and would maintain the code of conduct and standard operating procedures as well as investigating complaints made by the public.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

either the GRO or some other governing body as per my example with the clinical bodies

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

either the GRO or some other governing body as per my example with the clinical bodies

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as per my example with the clinical bodies

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As stated previously, I do not believe that weddings should be differentiated as religious or non-religious.

Please share your views below:

I feel that prayers should be allowed to be introduced and readings/songs that include religious/cultural references.

I have conducted ceremonies alongside people of faith and members of clergy and all of this has gone to create a really individual ceremony that meets the need and desires of those being married. It is a shame that any restriction should be put on those people to be able to participate to - aren't we trying to be a more inclusive society not more restrictive?

If we go down the path of religious versus non-religious/non-belief then there should be no crossing of these boundaries, it is too confusing for people and there has to be a clear point of difference.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be no restrictions as long as it is safe for the officiant, couple and guests to be in that location and this can be assessed in conjunction with a clear working framework then anything should be acceptable.

There may need to be a consideration for consecrated ground - I have had a request for a Halloween wedding in an old graveyard before....

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

As previous, I think it should not be religious vs Non, I think it more important to be inclusive.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safety first.

It could be that further down the line a registry of locations could be compiled but in the short term it should be the officiants decision based on a safety risk assessment

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

dignified needs a definition and framework.

Again consideration should be given to themes and styles of ceremony.

Is it undignified for two tightrope walkers to state their vows on a high wire or trapeze if they are trained?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an agreement between the officiant and the location owner that the venue is safe and all possible considerations have been made in line with the standard risk assessments, this could extend to social distancing and the wearing of face masks and can be provided by councils, private land owners etc

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be so much easier for the officiant and be fully visible and in the public domain.  
I don't think there should be a charge for this like a licence carries now.

Please share your views below:

A venue could do an assessment against a risk assessment to ensure compliance and either ask a registered officiant to review it or an officiant can conduct a risk assessment and ahead of a ceremony and if there is a wish from the landowner to have their property used again for ceremonies then it can be submitted to the registration service/governing body for approval and publication.  
One of the criteria should be that Public Liability Insurance is in place as all the risk should not fall to the officiant.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I envisage a database such as that held by the HMRC for tax returns where information can be uploaded securely in relation to this information and then photos or scans of the documents such as the schedule, consent, certificate etc can be uploaded.  
This will be held centrally should there be a need to review this for divorce/annulment and also for historical record such as birth/death & marriage certificates are held now .

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

both languages where required.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I envisage a database such as that held by the HMRC for tax returns where information can be uploaded securely in relation to this information and then photos or scans of the documents such as the schedule, consent, certificate etc can be uploaded.  
This will be held centrally should there be a need to review this for divorce/annulment and also for historical record such as birth/death & marriage certificates are held now .

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it needs to be ascertained what notice is to be given, how this will be displayed and how long this is valid for. Equally, what time line is to be placed on this authority being granted?

On the consent paperwork it should either state that they are aware they are having a ceremony conducted by a registered officiant and therefore the marriage would be legally binding or vice versa and this should be signed off by the couple with an evidenced signature to verify it from a passport or driving licence. This can then be uploaded to the central database or retained for inspection by the officiant.

I think that officiants should state their opt-in for same sex marriage on their registration and venues that wish to be considered for use in future should also declare this as part of their risk assessment.

A marriage should not be nullified if an officiant/venue fails to opt out of same sex marriage, I think the emphasis should be placed on inclusivity not exclusion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Elopements are becoming evermore popular and witnesses sometimes muddy the waters.

I do believe that notice should be given of marriage (to check there is not already a marriage in place) and that a document should be signed to give consent, acknowledge the legal status of the ceremony they are to undertake and a risk assessment as to the safety of the venue, I don't know that anything else needs to be in evidence.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do believe in the 'common law marriage' and that it should carry certain rights such as pension contributions from the 'spouse', child care entitlements etc.

However, if we are making marriage easier and cost effective then people should feel able to have a paper based service which means they are entitled to these rights without an assumption being made - what if people have cohabited for a long period of time due to economic factors or under duress?

If a couple were able to give notice on line, evidence their right to marry/citizenship etc, have a face to face evidentiary meeting and sign a document to say they are giving consent and they understand they are to be legally married then that would give be sufficient, they should not even need to have a ceremony or witnesses to complete this.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure if we are saying that the time limit is to be removed, shortened or extended?

Should there not be a right to appeal?

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fully agree that this is what I would be stating if I were to be allowed to become a registered officiant bound by a code of practice.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Notice periods are problematic.

If someone is given a matter of days or weeks to live then notice to marry that has to be given for two weeks is not helpful.

If people who are ill have been deemed to have sufficient capacity to consent and are able to provide a signature or mark that would authenticate their wishes then this should be sufficient.

If someone is not able to sign their consent for themselves there could be an element built in by proxy where the doctor might be able to sign on their behalf if it has been made clear to them the wishes of the patient.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In principle this would be ideal but there would need to be officiants available to be able to attend medical facilities at quite short notice and the emphasis would be that the couple would be in a position to evidence their right to marry etc.

I think there would need to be some very explicit guidance around this.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would this expand to people who might be looking to claim Asylum i.e does residence need to be considered?

Asylum seekers can claim they or their family would be put to death if they continued to reside in their home country. If their Spouse to be already lived in the U.K could they legally marry under this proposition and then claim residence in the U.K?

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Until I watched the consultation videos I had not given this a thought and my imagination is struggling to think of scenarios under this question. However, If someone had an accident at sea and therefore fell under 'being at risk of death' then this could apply to fishing vessels and private yachts the same.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be easy enough given that booking would be required, depending on timelines required for notice.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have never experienced this.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps the onus should be on the officiant, could they not upload a schedule, consent, risk assessment and copies either via photographs or scans if ID Docs such as passports rather than relying on the couple.

All of this could be done on line and sent to the registrar general or uploaded onto a central database and would mean that cases would be closed in a timely manner.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I charge my couples a fee if they are outside of a certain geographical area to do a face to face meeting, run through at a venue and the ceremony itself; it is reasonable for this to be standardised across all officiants.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

I think we should keep things the same across the board, however If it were me I would heavily discount the ceremony fee for a terminal patient or waive it all together so it would still be reasonable that only my costs are met such as travel

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if all officiants are confirming the same criteria then this fee should be payable to all who provide this service.

This is why a central database of those venues that have been previously approved is important otherwise they could end up having to pay a fee for every ceremony and this could cause a massive financial impact to some venues.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



No different than applying for a licence now.

Would this approval need to be reviewed on a regular basis - if a structural change was made to the venue or it was damaged by fire or flood etc safety would need to be reassessed?

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think most officiants/celebrants already apply this consideration in their quotes, especially if they officiate more than one event a day otherwise they could not schedule their time effectively

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should be clear and applied to all allowed to officiate ceremonies i.e I might choose to offer a free certificate of the ceremony where as some others may choose to charge however I have seen people charge anything between £5 and £45 for this certificate.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I think all pricing for registered officiants should have clear, visible pricing and if they choose to discount their rates they should make this clear, I don't think it is fair to say all terminal illness cases should be free but there are certain guidelines that a lot of us follow (such as not charging for funerals if the deceased is under 16), however if I get three of those in a month I risk no income and for an independent or someone working out of a registry office this could result in caps or quotas being applied and from my perspective, I am hoping this reform will allow me to do more not restrict what work I choose to undertake.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not feel that the proposals would result in more people getting married as all of my couples I have ever held a ceremony for in the last four years have completed the legal ceremony very close in time to my ceremony, the only exception to this would vow renewals conducted for couples on their anniversary dates or UK ceremonies for those who had the the legal wedding overseas.

I don't believe the current law discourages or prevents people getting married but I do believe it makes it more complicated than it needs to be and also leaves it open to financial impropriety because of a lack of transparency and regulation.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I do not believe that the registry offices provide clear pricing for couples and they do not actively promote the cheaper options.
2. The cost of marrying on approved premises seems to vary so much location to location, depending on which registry office is providing the service and what day of the week it falls on. I think this is wrong and people have the right to be able to know what they are paying, why and be able to calculate this themselves by having visibility in either material provided by the registration service, venue or online.
- 3,4&5. I regularly review the Church of England costs when pricing my services. I believe I do more than they do when it comes to creating a ceremony and working with other vendors but I feel it right that my couple is not disadvantaged for choosing me. Equally, I currently consider the going rate of a registrar attending a licensed venue to perform a wedding versus my fee plus a 2x£46 legal marriage so that the couple can choose one or the either and

again not be financially disadvantaged either way and can see where the fees come from via my website and the gov.uk web page. The costs for hiring somewhere not licensed for a wedding is for the most part cheaper but there are venues that price themselves based on their features compared to someone else that offers a similar package (i.e accommodation and catering may be considered). I believe that a couple should be able to shop around for their venue and suppliers based on their budget and if the officiant decides to offer a discount because they were recommended via a friend or via another supplier etc then they should. Wedding costs are rising year on year and it has to have some reasonable limits applied to it.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Throughout these proposals, what has remained central to me is inclusivity.

People should have the right to get married where they like - private or public venue, outdoors or indoors, religious setting or non as long as all are safe for those in attendance, paid or otherwise.

People should be able to choose who they want to officiate their ceremony based on a personality that fits with their style/theme and should have a clear understanding of what service the officiant is able to provide i.e legal or not and the associated costs in terms of ceremony fees and travel costs plus any 'optional extras' such as certificates etc

People should be able to conduct ceremonies if they have evidenced their knowledge of the legal requirements and CPD plus membership of a approved organisation whether they are religious or non-religious or contain elements of both.

I feel it would be discriminatory to allow one population to be able to conduct ceremonies under these terms and not others if they are able to adhere to a registration/approval process and follow a clear code of conduct & practice.

1. Register office weddings should become cheaper as the officiants will be more readily available as they will not need to attend so many venues to conduct ceremonies as they will not be the only service providers.
2. The saving for pre-approval could be to the venue on not having to get a licence or there may not need to be a fee applied here if the venue has already been pre-approved - I do feel this needs some real clarity
3. It is fair to say that some couples are having to pay an enhanced registry office fee and the fee of their celebrant which is financially disadvantaging those who have done their research or been fully informed by their registry office of clear pricing. It is also a cost to the couple that they may need to have additional days away from employment for themselves or their witnesses, additional clothing, a secondary reception, enhanced photographer coverage etc etc as well as it being a logistical challenge that a couple needs to have 2 separate events rather than being able to be provided with a one stop shop when it comes to selecting their officiant.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. I work with a small barn in Colchester that is not currently able to apply for a licence without having renovation works completed in order to provide accessible toilets, this could be thousands of pounds of cost. [REDACTED]

There are some venues I work with that has some licensed areas but there are other opportunities outside at the venue that are not covered by the licence, provided they are able to offer accessibility and safe seating etc there should be nothing that stops this venue being able to extend its services under its current approval status. [REDACTED]

2. There should be greater availability of registration officers as there will be less pull on their resources due to a greater number of available service providers.

I see no reason why there shouldn't be a set ceremony fee i.e £500 with travel outside of 15 miles being payable at 45p per mile which is how I bill, there is no reason why this should be broken down for time on the road, it is a risk all mobile services incur.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

My feeling is that venues can not loose, even local councils could benefit if they could have certain locations approved without there needing to be an excessive fee for example, I have been asked to hold a ceremony at Beachy Head which would be amazing for a couple to be able to have their legal ceremony at this external location and local businesses would benefit from being able to cater for them, provide a venue for a reception or accommodation for anyone who attended.

The weddings and events business is estimated to be worth £47million income annually as we are currently. I can only see this being able to grow as capacity can increase, a simple matter of supply and demand in economic terms and as local councils and smaller venues see their estate become a possibility under new legislation, the possibilities continue to grow.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The impacts I can foresee is that there will be a greater need for transparency within their registration services and possibly a knock onto their planning/permits/licencing departments as they have less need to be granting licences for premises to hold weddings although there may be an increase in applications to be able to dispense alcohol in venues & locations that didn't have a need for it before.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The impacts I can foresee is that there will be a greater need for transparency within their registration services and possibly a knock onto their planning/permits/licencing departments as they have less need to be granting licences for premises to hold weddings although there may be an increase

in applications to be able to dispense alcohol in venues & locations that didn't have a need for it before.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently it is expensive to travel to a location to be a resident for a period of time just to give notice.

It is difficult when you live overseas to be able to get visas and attend face to face meetings with registration services/ religious organisations and where you both have to be present makes this more difficult.

The hoops people have to jump through seem very restrictive. If a lot of this could be done on line and then verified a short while before the ceremony is due to go ahead would facilitate this in the future.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see this as a real benefit to tourism income in the UK.

There would need to be some consideration given to the amount of attendees at some sites for example Sible Hedingham village is almost closed down at between 1pm and 4pm most weekends where numerous vehicles descend on the village on the way to Castle Hedingham where regular weekend weddings and events are held. Local authorities may look at imposing local park and ride services to these events.

Some venues that rely on National Trust contributions to be able to survive may have another avenue for revenue - country house ruins and gardens of estates.

I'm sure there is a parallel that can be drawn from tourism information in France, Italy, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Greece etc of people who travel specifically to those countries to be able to get married on a beach. The travel companies who offer packages designed for wedding parties to attend locations specifically for a wedding such as the Sandals resorts in Mauritius. Although we do not always have the weather I can imagine Harry Potter fans wanting to get married as the Hogwarts express chugs over the viaduct in Scotland used in the film, Downton fans can get married at Highclere castle now for £20,000 plus so why not have a tourist company that arranges these? or an arranger who works for the local authority if they are looking to use a publicly owned building such as Hylands House in Chelmsford.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no knowledge of this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no knowledge of this

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The weddings and events business is estimated to be worth £47million income annually as we are currently.

I can only see this being able to grow as capacity can increase, a simple matter of supply and demand in economic terms and as local councils and smaller venues see their estate become a possibility under new legislation, the possibilities continue to grow.

Government will benefit through greater income tax opportunities via HMRC

Local Authorities may see a reduction in registration office ceremonies but an increase in locations looking for alcohol licenses to hold receptions or additional permits for parking, firework displays, entertainment licences etc.

Business that support the wedding industry should grow. Each venue I work at has a preferred supplier list, if each new venue had its own list there could be a real boom in people required to supply seating, venue dressing, mobile toilets etc that without the catering, entertainment and drinks required with a reception.

We know that 2020 has meant a huge amount of weddings have not been able to go ahead and that many of those who would have started their plans this year are holding back to see how the effects of the pandemic pan out. With more supply of people able to conduct non/religious ceremonies then there should be more income into these groups. The area of concern would be to the quality of delivery.

I think Couples will see greater transparency in price points and therefore will achieve greater choice and benefit from reduced costs and archaic law that stops them being able to achieve their dreams. The biggest win in all of this consultation is for the couple.

The greatest risk is to an independent. Potentially they will need to pay membership to an organisation, make sure they have Public Liability insurance, pay for training to deliver legalities and pay to a local authority to have a licence/permit/registration to operate. If they get a complaint that is upheld this means they will lose their permit to conduct legal ceremonies and there will be less need for someone to conduct a non legal ceremony (unless they stick

to naming ceremonies or funerals only and given the network Funeral Directors have) which could mean their livelihoods are curtailed over night.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNA-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-23 21:04:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

A number of couple that I know of have had to postpone their marriage, with the consequent disruption and frustration.

The facility to have a simple ceremony in a household setting would be a useful provision, helping to reduce spread of infection in times of a pandemic.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be beneficial for a person coming to England to get married, reducing demands on times and consequent costs.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a more time efficient method of giving notice, particularly for those coming into England to marry.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I consider this to be an adequate period of time.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes - this would be convenient and sufficient for the majority of circumstances.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes - this provision should be retained for convenience.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

More readily accessible to any interested parties.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important to have an alternative appointed person available in case of ill-health or unexpected circumstances.

Please share your views below:

Yes - point as above

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with all three points.

Parties should be able to choose the officiant from their church.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the buildings based system is changed, then it would be good for the governing body of the organization to nominate appointed persons.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is in line with our current expectations

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - any organization promoting criminal or unlawful practices should be excluded from nominating officiants. However, organizations having genuine Christian beliefs that may not align with generally accepted norms of the day ,or current government policy (such as same sex marriage) should not be limited or hindered in nominating appointed persons.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No longer necessary

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The need for opened doors would be eliminated by the process of checking impediments prior to the marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the location would be conducive to the dignity and respect for the occasion being maintained.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The setting of a private house would facilitate the ceremony in a relaxed family setting.

This provision would be useful in any future pandemic situation.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should however also consider the couple's preferences on this point.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The environment should be secure and conducive to respect for the ceremony taking place.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - as long as the directives are not too narrow - for example excluding private dwellings.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Could the names and occupations be included when drafting the document rather than added afterwards?

### Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Any improvement to legislation that results in the increase couples being legally married is to be welcomed.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marrying in a suitable home environment would reduce expenditure for many who may find the cost of hiring a location prohibitive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

For persons travelling to England to get married, the notice period can prove onerous. There would be benefit in reducing or removing this period and enabling the preliminaries to be completed online.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

If marriage ceremonies could take place in the home, the expense of opening up a large building for a short ceremony could in many cases be avoided.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHX-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-23 23:05:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

We are happy that you use my responses as appropriate to the purpose of this exercise.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My wife and I are in a marriage recognised by law, which was celebrated in a religious ceremony

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Two of my daughters got married this year. One was due to get married in April and received her banns certificate which had unfortunately been delayed in the post, on the day that full lockdown was announced in March. This meant that she was unable to get married as planned and had to wait for a further three months before she could do so.

She and her husband-to-be found the forced delay and inability to see each other when they had been expecting to be enjoying their long awaited life together very trying indeed, especially when there was no end date of lockdown in sight. Our daughter had to cancel many arrangements just ten days before her forthcoming nuptials. She had terminated her employment in view of marriage, and her belongings were all packed up, and this left her (and us) in a state of limbo, not knowing when the marriage ban would be lifted.

So anxious was this time that we even contacted [REDACTED] our local MP, who kindly spoke to the Justice Secretary about our plight and she sent a reply expressing her sympathy. We received her letter just after our daughter was thankfully able to at last get married in July, as soon as the ban was lifted. It was a very happy occasion held at our Covid-secure registered meeting room albeit a very much downscaled ceremony, attended only by her husband's immediate family and our own, and the two officiants - a total of 12 persons.

Although three months does not seem long now, the uncertainty and disappointment and even occasional despair at being prevented from being together, was very intense while they were going through it. My son in law actually spent a day or two in bed unable to eat or drink so upset was he at the turn of events. His mother was very worried about his mental health at the time, but thankfully he managed to get over it. He is a very sensitive young man, a deep thinker and he almost took personal responsibility for the circumstances that were causing such pain to them as a couple. My daughter was also physically affected, by having sleepless nights with worry and her hair started falling out with the stress.

The second marriage in the family took place in October having been delayed two months by the impact of lockdown. This was our eldest daughter was 28 who had long looked forward to the happy day of her marriage, having watched her younger siblings beat her to the winning post. She was almost traumatised by having watched her sister suffer through her own experiences of enforced delay and was dreading she too would be caught by another lockdown. She took measures such as collecting her certificates in person, rather than having them posted out and bought a ring 'off the shelf' as her sister had gone through a lot of worry as her ring was still being made at the time we went into lockdown and she had many misgivings not knowing if the bespoke independent jeweler would go into administration because of lockdown meaning her fiancé would lose his £2000 investment in her ring. Our eldest also spent very little on her wedding dress and flowers, knowing that her sister had lost out financially due to the delays. Her wedding also took place at our meeting room, with only the witnesses and officiants, and her married sister and brother in law present at the ceremony according to the latest guidance which had just changed again. We had to attend with masks and observed strict Covid-secure safety rules such as hand sanitization and touchpoint cleanliness. Thereafter we had to abide by the rule of six, and had to curtail the reception activities. Even her own sister could not attend the rest of the day at our home which caused much sorrow. The new rules came in too late for us to arrange a reception in an alternative venue as they came days before her wedding, but as we had planned a very simple family meal at home we went ahead with this plan but limited it to direct family and maximum of six persons. Although we had the peace of mind that we were obeying the law at all times, and day was happy, the joy of the occasion was dampened by the stress surrounding the unusual circumstances of the day. Both weddings were sober occasions with no partying - very much as a result of what the couples had been through. It has not been an easy year!

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be more time needed than this in this electronic age of efficiency.

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would do away with necessity of someone from abroad having to come over to the UK prematurely, to attend interviews in person, when this means accommodation needs to be found, at cost, and time wasted.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, agree. It does not seem that attendance in person should be necessary in such cases.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would seem fairer and give opportunity for a wider audience to be able to observe intended notices of marriage than just those in the immediate vicinity of residence of the intended celebrant.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It gave us peace of mind to know that we had 12 months validity on my daughter's application/approval when we went into lockdown and did not know when it would end.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We would appreciate the right for the organisation and or/couple to approve the officiant to perform their marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem prudent so that should anything happen to prevent the officiant overseeing the marriage ceremony, it would not impede the marriage taking place on the appointed date. Once again, the substitute would be best approved by the celebrants and/or the organisation.

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



N/A

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant would be the current Authorised Person. The persons getting married should be able to choose their officiant from their own church, if applicable.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At the moment the celebrant is selected by trustees of the registered building eg our meeting room. If we move away from the building to an officiant-based nominee, it would be excellent if the governing body of that organisation could specify who they wished to perform the ceremony as they would understand and be sympathetic to their celebrant's desires for their marriage format.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have a problem with this proposition since we hold sincerely held beliefs on marriage. The sanctity of marriage is very highly regarded in our community and we hold dear the principle of waiting until the marriage is performed before living together.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree, some organisations should be excluded, particularly ones that promulgate unlawful or criminal practices. However, organisations that have genuinely held Christian beliefs that might allow things contrary to public policy should not be excluded. An example of this might be same sex marriage, despite this being something which I personally disagree with.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a good suggestion. However, it did not apply to our situation as we were not charged for by the officiant for our wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The setting of standards expressed in clarity and simplicity are vital to achieving 100% compliance with the law.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems to make sense.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would no longer be needed?

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem the law as it stands is not suited to the dangers of modern times, and the new procedure of checking that there is no impediment to a marriage prior to the event, should negate the need for having open doors. It would be safer to ensure the wedding can take place with no risk to the participants eg terrorist intrusion or theft from personal belongings that may accessed by allowing anyone from the public arena on site. Should the law change to allow ceremonies in houses the same principles of security and safety, and also the practicality of ensuring warmth for the participants - especially during the wintry seasons - should apply.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree in principle but feel that some places suggested by celebrants may not be advisable. For example, getting married in a hot air balloon would not uphold the dignity proper to a marriage ceremony. The venue should meet health and safety norms, and not preclude all ages of participants eg very young and very old. It should be held in high regard and with due respect as one of the most important events in life's journey.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

We feel that some places suggested by celebrants may not be advisable. For example, getting married in a hot air balloon would not uphold the dignity proper to a marriage ceremony. The venue should meet health and safety norms, and not preclude all ages of participants eg very young and very old. It should be held in high regard and with due respect as one of the most important events in life's journey. However, some may feel that they would like to marry outdoors and that would be a personal decision and provided that it met certain criteria such as safety and so forth, it would not be unreasonable. We have relatives in Australia who have been married at home recently, and they said it made the occasion very simple, relaxed and inexpensive and they would not have wished it any other way at all. For many of us, home is a safe haven and has special memories of togetherness, good times and love, and this would be more meaningful a venue than (as experienced by our daughters this year) a wedding ceremony in a rather musty foyer of a church that had been closed up since March. We dared not put the airconditioning on for fear of risk of Legionella disease as it had not been used for so long. A marriage at our church also meant we had to hire a marquee at great expense for our third daughter who married in 2017. It was difficult to prepare food away from the conveniences of cookers and refrigerators and it made it a lot of effort to transport the wedding dainties in cool bags etc. It would have so more practical and hygienic to hold it at home and I think it would be an excellent idea to allow for marriages to take place in homes. Furthermore, it would be easier for the bride to look her best without having to get in a car and as happened with both my daughters contend with the vagaries of the English climate. It poured with rain on them as they ventured to the car and again as we emerged from the meeting room! Another source of anxiety was the M6 came to a standstill while we were travelling [REDACTED] to our meeting room, and we were worried we would be late for appointed time of the ceremony. If we had had the marriage at home, it would have removed this uncertainty. The daughter who had to put her wedding off for three months because she could not hold the ceremony in our meeting room because of Covid restrictions, may have been able to hold a simple ceremony at home had this been allowed. We have also heard of some couples who were unable to get married in their preferred meeting room i.e. the one closest to their home, as it had not yet been registered as a marriage venue. This resulted in inconvenience to the participants and using a home would have been a good solution. Our meeting room does not provide much scope for attractive photo backgrounds. The daughter who got married in October had to have her photos edited as they had lorries heading for the M6 passing by behind her, interspersed with lamp posts and adjacent houses and a block paved carpark to contend with too! Fortunately, the autumn leaved tree in the border saved the day! Home gardens would have provided better photo opportunities. These rules allowing wedding at home and at other venues already apply in our neighbouring Scotland and Ireland, so these laws have precedent and are not an unreasonable ask.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be cognisant of desires of the celebrants and sensitive to their wishes.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is critical that the venue should be safe for both the couple getting married and those attending the ceremony. There should be no risk or inconvenience that would detract from the happiness and solemnity of the occasion. By minimizing distractions and disruptions and practical difficulties it would make it a less stressful experience for both the parents and their offspring!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable so long as it does not become over-prescriptive with regards to weddings taking place in houses as whilst it would be important for the general public to respect any guidelines and particularly observe any requirements of the law, this respect needs to be reciprocal as regards observing personal privacy in our homes.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be more helpful if the above information could be documented before the occasion. We found it quite a strain for the newly married couple to have to wait around for the information to be written up when they were nervously waiting for the ceremony to take place! Likewise, having just got married to have so much paperwork to do, diverted from the joy of the moment. Simplification of the process would be good, although we appreciate that the signing and witnessing has to take place to formalise the proceeding.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

We are unaware of the detail of this.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 80:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We welcome the proposal by the government which we first came across when researching Covid guidelines earlier this year. Our only disappointment was that the new rules would not come in in time to help us cope with the difficulties that 2020 and the accompanying pandemic presented prior to and on the day of the marriages of our daughters. It was hard enough to have them marrying within six months of each other, but by reason of the ban on weddings earlier in the year there was only three months between their marriages, in the end. This made life rather pressurised to get things ready in time for the second marriage of the year and the family got pretty stressed out in between the joyful moments! It is the continual altering of guidelines and rules in response to the pandemic and the uncertainty thereof, that was the hardest. The simple solution of being allowed to have a small ceremony at home would have been so much better.

We believe that the changes would help not only those who may not have been able to get married heretofore, by reason of Covid, or other restrictions, but also those who came from abroad and were thus prevented from getting married within a certain time frame, because of onerous laws.

We believe in not living together before marriage, and it was very hard for my daughter and her husband-to-be who had to wait a further three months before they could consummate their marriage. For this reason, while the changes would not make a material difference to the number of marriages in the Brethren community because we hold the sanctity of marriage highly, it would likely result in more marriages overall. We believe this would be good because there is little that is more important in encouraging stable, prosperous and caring communities, than encouraging stable, loving whole family units.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We do not have to pay to have our ceremony at the meeting room, but there were costs and inconveniences with having to hold the ceremony there both during the pandemic and prior to the pandemic for different reasons. eg In 2017 when we held the reception at the meeting room we had to pay for a marquee and caterers, whereas had we been at home this would have not been necessary and would have entailed less risk in transporting wedding food and preparing it with the most basic of facilities and no cookers or refrigerators to hand. In the pandemic we could not hold the reception at the meeting room or at home in the case of the last marriage, meaning we could only have a very simple family meal with the couple who had a long journey

to get to their final home and we felt it was not right to send them off without eating anything as they had missed breakfast and lunch already being a bundle of nerves about the day!

We stuck to the rule of six and had a simple meal delivered to the door by a kind friend as with so few of us, and being required to be present for photos, meant my wife could not cook. My wife and I had to go and park in a public car park to allow the friend to deliver the meal to the door, and to allow the bride's married sister to have two photographs with her. She and her husband had to miss the wedding reception because of the rule of six and this was very hard for us to have to leave them out. It made the day very disjointed and rather stressful, but the couple themselves were blissfully happy and probably did not notice the many hours we spent researching the rules and trying to make sure we were compliant. No alternative venue would have been desirable given the risks of Covid abroad at the moment and we simply did not have time to even find out whether such a venue would have been available at such short notice. It would have also been costly. Any adjustments to the law should make sure that simplicity of execution and clarity of instruction is key to getting the new rules right.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

For all three weddings we might have saved the organisation i.e. Brethren meeting room trustees and attendees, the cost of having to pay for the maintenance of the hedgerows and clearing the grounds for photos, also the cost of having to put on light and heating for the event. We are aware of some meeting rooms who had to test for Legionella risk because of the length of time that the meeting rooms cooling systems had been standing unused. This was an added expense, no doubt.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is restrictive for persons travelling from overseas to get married in England or Wales. We have an English relative who has been through several delays with regards to his marriage to a New Zealand girl who is also known to us. We have experienced first-hand how many difficulties have to be overcome with regards to practical decision-making prior to setting up home and the exorbitant costs of buying and furnishing a house at this time, and observed that the sooner the couples could formalise their marriage and be able to live together and make decisions together the better. We are aware in the case of the overseas prospective bride the added strain of having to say goodbye to her family in New Zealand many weeks before she and her husband-to-be could be married and live together, was a hard waiting time for her.

She lived with her sister and family who was living nearby, but some other brides might have to pay for hotel accommodation and waiting unduly would be very expensive. A solution would be to abolish the current 28 day period required since the speed of communication is much faster nowadays. Also the ability to do the preliminaries online from abroad rather than have to do it in person in the UK (i.e. the need for residence in the UK) be abolished, would greatly simplify the process.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would be simpler if the bride or bridegroom from abroad or further afield could fill in the preliminaries from wherever they resided online, but of course subject to agreeing to attend an in person interview at an mutually appointed time, if it was felt that this was required. It would also help if the notification of intent of marriage period could be reduced from 28 days till say, 3 days.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

M/A

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Marriage at home would save money for couple and family.

Not having to open up the large meeting room for a small ceremony would save cost of electricity for the organisation.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNW-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-24 15:59:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (PBCC)

[www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org](http://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org)  
[togetherwearebrethren.com.au](http://togetherwearebrethren.com.au)

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Many marriages across England and Wales have had to be put on hold during the pandemic which has caused distress and hardship to those couples who had dates booked. This is while contemporaries in Scotland and Northern Ireland were able to continue with weddings where lockdown measures permitted, in the houses, which was perceived to be unfair.

There were also situations with buildings registered for less than a year, where the registrars needed to be in attendance, and the registrar office had closed prior to lockdown. As they held all the paperwork, there was no opportunity for these to continue, but at that time there was no restrictive lockdown and the marriage could have gone ahead if the building had been registered for more than a year. Because the wedding was registered at the building it could not proceed.

The PBCC have strongly held Biblical beliefs in the sanctity of marriage and do not live together prior to marriage (Scriptural References:- Genesis 2 v 24: Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh; Ephesians 5 v 31: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. KJV).

In these cases, not being able to have the wedding ceremony meant that the couple continued to live separate lives with their own parents/families, when they were expecting and preparing for a new life together. It is therefore of all importance to us that there should be provision for a simpler ceremony held in our houses that would have minimal infection risk.

Furthermore, there were situations where couples wanted to marry prior to lockdown but did not have their certificates issued. This happened both where the couple were resident and where one was foreign.

The PBCC encourage all couples considering marriage to approach this in earnest and thoughtful consideration, as it is truly held to be 'the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life'. As such, once the couple have made the committal to be wed, often there is no reason for delay in continuing so they can pursue their chosen life together. For this reason it would be beneficial if the obstructions to a prompt wedding date could be removed: namely if the 28 day notice period were abolished or reduced; the preliminaries could be done online; and the residence requirement could be abolished.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We would agree with this proposal: It makes it easier for persons coming to England or Wales to get married, especially during the current restrictions but also outside of them.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this. If persons are wanting to marry in England it will make it easier for them to start the notice period online. This makes complete sense in a digital age.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Three days would be adequate and speed up the process.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

We agree with this proposal: This seems to be a sensible suggestion as long as there are safeguards against sham marriages.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Happy with this proposal. In practice most of our couples marry in a much shorter time frame, but the 12 month period has never caused us a problem, and may be useful in some situations.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We are happy with this proposal: We would normally have two officiants registered and available to ensure that there is no delay if the first officiant is unable to attend through illness, traffic delays or other reason.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We are happy with this proposal: We would normally have two officiants registered and available to ensure that there is no delay if the first officiant is unable to attend through illness, traffic delays or other reason.

Please share your views below:

Yes, if they are available and happy, and the couple request it. We would normally have two officiants registered and if they were available and happy to conduct the ceremony, would respect the wishes of the couple to choose the officiant.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal and that the persons getting married should be able to choose their officiant from their church if applicable.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal. At present the authorised person is nominated by the trustees of the registered building which has worked well. However, if it is proposed that we move away from a buildings based system to an officiant based system (which we support) then it would be good for the governing authority of that organisation to nominate the officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We don't have an issue with this proposal. PBCC do have sincerely held beliefs on marriage. The sanctity of marriage is paramount in our community and persons do not live together prior to marriage. Genesis 2. V 24, Ephesians 5. V 31 "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh" KJV.

"As to the obligation of marriage, it cannot be held too highly; instituted in paradise, and confirmed by the Lord Himself, its sanctity is the providential bond of all moral order in the world" J N Darby Collected Writings Vol 18 p 111.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It is clear that organisations that promote unlawful or criminal practices should be excluded. However there may be organisations that have genuinely held Christian beliefs that are contrary to public policy (such as same sex marriage). These should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This commends itself to us.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense although it would not apply to PBCC as the officiants would never charge for their services.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We hold the dignity of the marriage in the highest honour and therefore strongly agree that the officiant should be responsible to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage. it should not be treated frivolously in any way.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible to uphold the dignity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It commends itself to us that religious (or other) organisations should be responsible for ensuring that the persons they nominate as officiants are “fit and proper” persons, as we do currently.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a fair and equitable way to proceed.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would no longer be necessary

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the repeal of the requirement for a wedding to take place with open doors. The new process of checking impediments prior to the wedding would eliminate the need to have open doors.

It would also be desirable that if a simple wedding was taking place in a private home, the open doors policy would not apply. This could have to do with the safety of those present, if anyone were able to enter the property.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We would agree with this in principle. PBCC would want to ensure that the dignity of the ceremony is maintained and therefore we would select venues with care.

We strongly agree with the proposal that weddings could take place in homes.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

We welcome the proposal that weddings should be able to take place in private homes.

There are many persons that would find it meaningful to have their wedding in their own home (normally the bride's home) where the simplicity, dignity, and solemnity of the occasion can be fully experienced without other distractions.

Other countries where there are PBCC communities do have the provision for marriages to take place in houses such as Scotland, Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, to name a few, and it would be most welcome if the same could apply in England and Wales.

Moving from a buildings based system to an officiant based system will greatly facilitate this for us.

We also feel that a wedding ceremony in the home environment can be more relaxed and facilitate the serving of any food or drink that may be provided. Likewise it provides a safe, dignified, environment for the couple to have photographs taken following the ceremony.

Having the facility to conduct a wedding in the home would have helped numerous situations in the COVID pandemic, and could well facilitate a situation where someone becomes incapacitated at short notice, e.g. breaking a leg.

It will also help in situations where there is a new church building that may not yet be registered. During COVID there were situations with newly registered buildings where the officiant was able to attend, but the local registrar office was not, and the wedding could not go ahead.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal. The officiant would normally be sensitive to the couples' desire as to where they are married, but they should also be comfortable that the proposed location is suitable, safe and dignified as befits the occasion.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We strongly support the proposal that the location should be both safe and dignified.

The safety of not only the couple but all attendees is paramount that they are not put at any risk or inconvenience in any way that would distract from the marriage occasion which is of great import to them.

We hold the dignity of the marriage in the highest honour and therefore strongly agree that the location should be dignified as is befitting to the solemnity as well as the joy of the occasion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable as long as it doesn't become over prescriptive with regards to weddings taking place in houses.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support this proposal, and also feel that it would help to streamline the process if these details could be added before the wedding ceremony. Our preferred procedure would be that on the arrival at the venue of all parties, and confirmation that they want to proceed with the marriage, all formalities (filling in date, location, etc) apart from the signing of the schedule should be carried out, followed by the ceremony, and then the signing. This

would save undue time after the ceremony.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this logical and sensible proposal.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We have no strong thoughts on the subject of fees except that it is important that the fee can be waived as PBCC officiants would not charge for our services.

### Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We are fundamentally in agreement with most of the proposals and feel it would facilitate marriages practically and still uphold the sanctity of marriage. We commend and support the government's efforts to bring this up to date and meaningful. We do not feel that the current laws would discourage or prevent members of the PBCC from getting married, however we are also mindful of other churches and communities and can well see that this might have that effect in some situations. We would refer back to the many situations we encountered during COVID where persons were unable to get married, and our fundamental belief in not living together before marriage. The effect on couples unable to marry was that they did not live together until they could get married. Again, we can see that for others the proposals could well lead to an increase in the number of persons legally married, which we would welcome.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We have covered our thoughts on costs for the parties involved in Question 91

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We feel that the government's proposals will set a good precedent for other jurisdictions if they are more restricted than the proposals. They may also encourage couples to get married in England or Wales rather than another jurisdiction.

There would be great benefit for residents of overseas jurisdictions travelling to England and Wales to get married if: -

- a) the notice period were abolished or reduced from the current 28 days
- b) the preliminaries could be done online
- c) the residence requirement could be abolished.

We commend the move to make the process simpler and more expedient.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Our belief is that a wedding is a simple but dignified occasion, and we respect the wishes of couples that want this to be a hassle free and inexpensive procedure. The true meaning of marriage is in the act of marrying, not the reception or extensive celebrations surrounding this. We strongly support the proposals that make it simpler and less expensive for couples to marry.

We can also see the benefit for the religious organisation, where a large building is registered and needs to be heated/cooled etc for the purposes of what might be a very small ceremony, in performing the ceremony in a house. Many of our churches go to extra expenditure to create a conducive environment both to the ceremony, the reception, and an area for photography.

Moreover the whole streamlining of the process both of registration and the ceremony itself, and the benefits of moving online where possible rather than the somewhat archaic processes at present, will have significant impact on the government and local authorities in the removal of unnecessary red tape.

It will be of significant impact to the PBCC Officials in labour and cost saving, including time and travel saving for marriages in homes. Often officials will make personal expenditure (which they are more than happy to do, much as the PBCC would be happy to reimburse) in the procurement of supplies including high end fountain pens and other stationery.

We welcome the benefits to all these parties.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNB-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-24 20:51:46

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren ( Authorised Person )

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Many marriages have had to be put on hold, which has caused a lot of added pressure to the couple getting married and the parents of the couple when the date that was originally fixed had to be changed with no fixed date in mind.



It would be a very helpful provision if the ceremony could be held in the house, which would also cut down the extra risk of infection, and keep the ceremony much simpler.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would make it simpler for persons coming to England to get married.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

same as question 4

##### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

We would agree with this proposal

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

We would agree with this proposal.

##### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We generally have two officiants registered and normally available to ensure there are no delays just in case of illness or if there was an issue at work or with traffic delays etc.

##### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If the couple requests it.  
If they are available and also happy.

##### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple getting married should be able to choose their officiant from their church if this is applicable.  
The officiant would be the current Authorised person.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At present, the authorized person is nominated by the trustees of the registered building.  
If we move away from a building based system to an officiant based system, then it would be good for the governing authority of that organization to nominate the officiants.  
This could still be the trustees of the registered building or other more centralized entity.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We do have sincerely held beliefs on marriage.  
The sanctity of marriage is absolutely paramount in our community.  
Persons do not live together prior to marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

We do agree that some organizations should be excluded.

Organizations that promote unlawful or criminal practices should be excluded.  
Organizations that have genuinely held Christian beliefs that are contrary to public policy ( such as same-sex marriage ) should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense.

It would not apply to us as we do not charge for our services.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would no longer be necessary.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the repeal of the requirement for a wedding to take place with open doors.

The new process of checking impediments prior to the wedding would eliminate the need to have open doors.

Ceremonies performed in the house should not require the private dwelling to have open doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Broadly we would agree with this.

This would allow and facilitate for weddings in the house.

We would not approve some of the places that have been suggested.

The dignity of the ceremony needs to be upheld and maintained.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Many couples would find it meaningful to have the wedding in their own house.

The whole occasion can be performed in a simple way in the family setting.

This would have been very helpful during the covid pandemic.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant would be sensitive as to the couple's desire, as to where they are to be married.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The location should be safe and dignified.

The safety of the couple and all attendees is paramount.

No risk or inconvenience that would distract from the marriage occasion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable as long as it doesn't become over-prescriptive with regards to weddings taking place in houses.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be helpful if all these details could be added before the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We welcome the government's proposals.

Some persons may have been able to get married because of Covid, and other restrictions, and overseas marriages.

We believe in not living together before marriage.

The proposals would facilitate marriage, while it would not impact on the number of our marriages, it may overall, and this would be good.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriages in the could save money for the couple and for the family.

Not having to open up the meeting room for a small ceremony could save money for the organization.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is restrictive for persons travelling from overseas to get married in England or Wales.

It would help if the notice period was reduced from 28 days or abolished.

The residence requirement could be abolished.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Not having to open up the large meeting room for a small ceremony would save money for the organization.  
Marriage in the home could save money for the couple getting married and the family.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNT-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-24 21:45:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Appointed Person for the Solemnization of Marriages at a Registered Building

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

In my capacity as an AP for the past 16 years, I have recently, this year (2020), had the most challenges in the role, witnessing the trauma and stress of couples wishing to get married by but hindered through:

1. the closure of registered buildings March-July and again in November due to COVID-19 lockdown measures.
2. the closure of Register Offices March-July/August and the subsequent delays for couples getting appointments to give notice.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not that accurate ascertainment of persons isn't important and similarly their current legal status but in the current day, such information about persons should be much more widely and broadly accessible and if notice was published on-line, the exposure of the notice would be much wider too.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As with my answer to Q5, nowadays more personal information is available prior to any application and additional checks can be made later, as required.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

The period of time shouldn't make any difference so the shortest period should be applied. It could always be extended if needs be

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree that these interviews could take place remotely. Currently, like never before, we are proving the effectiveness of carrying out much important business remotely, albeit initially through force of circumstance, the positive benefits in terms of time and cost saving, as well as protection of health, are immense.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, there is no need to change this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I fully agree. Being married is a publicly evident situation so the preliminaries to marriage must be too. No genuine couple would object to this, unless where there is a legally valid reason not to, as regards to personal safety.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need to change this time period.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and I would recommend also the Assistant AP being identified too, so as to cover for possible illness, travel delays, etc on the day of the ceremony

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as with my answer to Q11.

Please share your views below:

Yes, if they are available to act, are happy to do so and the couple request it.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Officiant would be the existing Appointed Person. Also, the couple should be able to choose from their church , if applicable.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, similar to the current arrangement for Registered Buildings where the governing body/Trustees of the building appoint the APs, the governing body of the organisation should be able to appoint the officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, agree. Marriage is a sincerely held belief and the provision for carrying out marriage, highly regarded.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely agree that organisations that promote and practice unlawful activities should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it is important for a centrally controlled public list to be held.

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, absolutely. This has always the case. Such persons must be competent for the role.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I have never made any charge, nor have thought to do so. It is a service to the community, especially the couple.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, in accord with holding marriage and the service of officiating with sincere beliefs.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance only. Churches should be free to conduct the wedding according to the form and rites of the particular church and beliefs.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as per existing

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If, in situations where reasonable efforts have been made to improve but have failed.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In accordance with any reasonable request.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as with the existing provisions

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is important

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There would not be any reason for this

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I support this repeal. With a new process for preliminaries, this would no longer be necessary. Similarly, open doors should not be necessary for ceremonies held in a house

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the main, yes. However it is important for the dignity and bearing of the ceremony to be maintained.

Please share your views below:

I would welcome the proposal for weddings to take place in private homes. This would be very meaningful to couples where the home would mean so much. There would not be any distractions from the dignity and bearing of the occasion and would allow for simplicity with the family without the need to rise to a 'grand' occasion. The time would be more relaxed and would more simply facilitate refreshment after the occasion. This arrangement would have worked very well during national lockdown restrictions. It would help where physical disabilities are present too.

Weddings in homes are already allowed in NI and Scotland and other developed Western countries where laws are based on the British system have already modernised their marriage law. The current UK law carries wide disparities regarding where marriages can be held.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be responsible along with being sensitive to the couples wishes and desires as to where to marry.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As existing, where APs take responsibility, the location needs to be safe and dignified. Safety for all attendees is important and there should not be any inconvenience or distraction from the occasion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to any guidance being reasonable and overly descriptive against marriage in homes.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In principle although from experience, it would be more helpful and convenient for this information to be added beforehand

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, absolutely. The present arrangement is quite unnecessarily laborious!

I have observed at an electronically registered marriage in another country, as a member of the congregation and was impressed with the simplicity but without in any way detracting from the dignity. it seemed to be more relaxing for the couple.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it remains important to includes these.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, essentially, the marriage itself is the exchange of vows to each other

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it is important to have these conditions

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I welcome and support the proposals

Some persons have been unable to marry because of COVID restrictions and other travel related restrictions.

I believe in, and support, not living together before marriage and marriage being the bedrock of stability on society so any provisions to simplify the whole process and make it less onerous and more attractive to all is welcome

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Enabling marriages in homes would save cost for couples and their families.

It would also save cost for church organisations where a church building would not have been opened up and used for the occasion. It would also provide a more greater level of protection from risk of infection, in situations similar to what we are currently in.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current marriage law is restrictive for persons travelling from overseas to get married in England & Wales. Reducing (or even abolishing) long notice periods (including residence) would help, albeit with the necessary control measures implemented through more technological means based on prior information, etc, if completing preliminaries on-line, remotely were made possible.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Cost savings for couples and their families

Cost savings for church organisations through not having to open up large church buildings for relatively small wedding parties.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHC-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 06:14:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

A number of marriages within our community had to be put on hold during the COVID lockdown earlier this year, one of these being the son of a close friend of mine where the approved place of worship was a new hall recently registered for marriage, and there was a requirement for a Registrar to attend along with the Celebrant. This caused additional delay as the couple not only had to wait until lockdown was lifted but also to wait until an available Registrar could attend. This caused considerable stress to the couple and their families, particularly as it was not an option for the couple to live together prior to their marriage as this would have breached the sanctity of marriage which is firmly held as a core Christian principle according to Holy Scripture.(Genesis 2 v 24)

It would be a welcome change to the law if a simpler ceremony could be conducted in the home setting with minimal infection risk and with a quicker and easier process securing Certificates prior to the marriage.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal because it would make it easier for persons coming to England to get married.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal because it would make it easier for persons coming to England to get married.

##### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Three days is adequate in my view.

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this proposal.

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this proposal.

##### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would normally ensure that a substitute officiant is available to conduct the ceremony should the first officiant be unavailable due to illness or other reasons, or even delayed due to traffic, or any other reason.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree with this proposal.

Please share your views below:

I would agree with the proposal providing the substitute officiant was agreeable to this, or if the couple requested it.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Officiant would be the current Authorised Person

The persons getting married should be able to choose their officiant from their church if applicable.

Consultation Question 20:

Other



Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

- At present the authorised person is nominated by the trustees of the registered building
- If we move away from a buildings based system to an officiant based system then it would be good for the governing authority of that organisation to nominate the officiants.
- This could still be the trustees of the registered building or other more centralised entity.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't have an issue with this proposal.

- We do have sincerely held beliefs on marriage.
- The sanctity of marriage is paramount in our community
- Persons do not live together prior to marriage.

.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree that some organisations should be excluded

- Organisations that promote unlawful or criminal practices should be excluded.
- Organisations that have genuinely held Christian beliefs that are contrary to public policy (such as same sex marriage) should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

- This makes sense
- it would not apply to us as we do not charge for services

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

- This would no longer be necessary.

#### Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

- We support the repeal of the requirement for a wedding to take place with open doors.
- The new process of checking impediments prior to the wedding would eliminate the need to have open doors.
- Ceremonies performed in the house should not require the private dwelling to have open doors.

### Chapter 7: Location

#### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- Broadly I would agree with this
- This would allow for weddings in the house
- I would not approve some of the places that have been suggested.
- The dignity of the ceremony needs to be maintained.

Please share your views below:

We welcome the proposal that weddings should be able to take place in private houses.

- Many would find it meaningful to have their wedding in their own home
- The dignity and solemnity of the occasion can be fully experienced without other distractions.
- The occasion can be performed in simplicity in the family setting
- The occasion can be more relaxed
- Facilitate any food/ drink that may be had after the ceremony
- Facilitate the taking of photos
- Would have helped during COVID
- There may be other restricted circumstances where this would help
- This would overcome situations where new church buildings have not been able to be used – either not registered or no availability of the registrars to attend.
- Already the case in Scotland and NI

#### Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

- The officiant would be sensitive to the couples' desire as to where they are married.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- The location should be both safe and dignified.
- The safety of not only the couple but all attendees is paramount
- No risk or inconvenience that would distract from the marriage occasion

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable as long as it doesn't become over prescriptive with regards to weddings taking place in houses.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- It would be helpful if these details could be added before the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



N/A

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I welcome the government's proposals,

- Some persons may have been unable to get married because of COVID / other restrictions /overseas marriages
- I believe in not living together before marriage
- The proposals would facilitate marriage, while it would not impact on the number of our marriages, it may overall and this would be good.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

- Marriage in the home could save money for the couple and family
- Not opening up a large meeting room for a small ceremony could save money for the organisation.
- The overall effect of the Government's proposals will encourage persons to enter into marriage safely, efficiently and with sufficient flexibility to suit the varied circumstances surrounding the couples concerned.
- Marriage is an institution of God, therefore to encourage and facilitate it will promote right relationships that will enhance the family concept which will in turn strengthen our economies nationally and worldwide.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is restrictive for persons travelling from overseas to get married in England and Wales

- It would help if the notice period were abolished or reduced from the current 28 days;
- the preliminaries could be done online;
- the residence requirement could be abolished.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

- Marriage in the home could save money for the couple and family
- Not opening up a large meeting room for a small ceremony could save money for the organisation

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDN4-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 09:35:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Member of the public

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. It is not much to ask that couples have lived locally for seven days prior to giving such notice.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. It seems more appropriate that the process starts in person, rather than online or by post.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. I do not favour interviews being done remotely. This seems to be “change for changes sake” It is not much to ask that an in-person interview be scheduled in all cases.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I do not support change from the status quo on this.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is always an issue about whether it is sensible to publish a person’s details online. In any event, I agree with the statement in paragraph 4.78 that “There is however a powerful argument that the requirement of publicity underlines the idea of marriage as a public, rather than private, matter.”

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I am not convinced about the need to require that banns to authorise an Anglican wedding should be published only in the church where the wedding is to take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I see no reason to depart from the status quo re either (1) or (2). In particular, the suggestion in (2) would seem to represent unnecessary micro-management.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I see no reason to depart from the status quo with this, as the suggested change would seem to represent unnecessary micro-management.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to (1) but do not agree to (2). I am not convinced that consultation document has made an adequate case for change to the status quo. It is stated in paragraph 1.3 that "Weddings law in England and Wales is in desperate need of reform." Having read and carefully considered this consultation document it does not seem to me that weddings law in England and Wales is actually in desperate need of reform. It is always possible to focus in on potentially negative aspects of any regime, but that does not mean that changing things is appropriate. From my own experience (I am married and have attended weddings of both the religious and non-religious type) the current system works OK. I am not opposed to change or reform, sometimes radical change, in certain areas of our national life, where justified. For example, leaving the EU seems thoroughly sensible.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an "officiant" system.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The existing system works satisfactorily.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an "officiant" system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an "officiant" system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Irrespective of whether an “officiant” approach is favoured or not it seems sensible that the law should expressly exclude religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations from nominating officiants if the organisations promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Irrespective of whether an “officiant” approach is favoured or not it seems sensible that (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) independent officiants applying to be authorised should be required to demonstrate that they are “fit and proper” persons.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Irrespective of whether an “officiant” approach is favoured or not it seems sensible that (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) independent officiants applying to be authorised should be required to demonstrate that they are “fit and proper” persons as set out in this question.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Irrespective of whether an “officiant” approach is favoured or not it is appropriate that organisations should be prohibited from making a business of officiating at weddings, by elevating the making of profits above the expression of their beliefs.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Irrespective of whether an “officiant” approach is favoured or not it is appropriate that there should be a prohibition on acting with a conflict of interest.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Irrespective of whether an “officiant” approach is favoured or not it is very important to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced about this, which could be regarded as unnecessary micro-management.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an “officiant” system. I favour retaining the status quo.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to depart from the status quo.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to depart from the status quo.

### Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to depart from the status quo.

### Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to depart from the status quo.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to depart from the status quo.

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On balance, the existing approach is satisfactory.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Earlier in this consultation document (paragraph 5.193) it is indicated that solemnity is important in the context of wedding arrangements. The existing arrangements ensure this and moving away from this to a “no holds barred” approach would not. Marriage is between the couple for life and it should be entered into seriously.

Please share your views below:

The status quo provides for adequate seriousness in the wedding ceremony. In contrast the above suggestions would unsatisfactorily dumb down and trivialise the marriage institution. No change to the status quo is justified.

### Consultation Question 49:

No



Please expand on your answer:

The existing approach is satisfactory.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

The existing approach is satisfactory. What is proposed is change for changes sake.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an "officiant" system. I favour retaining the status quo.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced of the need to move to an "officiant" system. I favour retaining the status quo. The status quo already ensures that the wedding location is safe and dignified.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I favour retaining the status quo. The status quo already ensures that the wedding location is safe and dignified.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. I am not convinced by the need for a pre-approval process. If the status quo is retained the issue would not arise.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not see the need to change from the status quo.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not favour of an electronic dimension being added. It is not asking much that the registration process for such an important event in peoples lives is to be handled face to face. Also, in paragraph 8.22 reference is made to "paper documents being lost, stolen or damaged." However, hackers could easily

destroy electronic records. Arguably an electronic system is less secure than a paper-based system.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On balance, I am not convinced about this.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I do not favour weddings being able to take place in international waters.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Getting married is a very important event in a persons life. The decision is a serious one and not to be taken lightly. In my view the main point is that the couple are sufficiently committed about getting married. If they are sufficiently committed they will be determined enough to go through the process of getting married. I have carefully read and considered the content of the consultation document as it describes both (i) the status quo regarding the marriage process and (ii) the changed process outlined within the document. I am doubtful if the current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married. Equally, I would be surprised if the provisional proposals led to an increase in the number of couples who are legally married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNF-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 10:47:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

One Spirit Interfaith Foundation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not necessary

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable to me

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable to me

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable to me

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable to me

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have an established practice in Northern Ireland as an officiant of legal marriage. I have been authorised to conduct legal marriages since 2012.

During the pandemic nearly all of my weddings have been postponed into 2021 with the exception of a few, one which involved a terminally ill lady and others which slotted into the July relaxation of the rules.

Many of my weddings have now been postponed twice or three times.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least one month or 28 days. There really should be a longer time in my personal opinion because as a former divorce lawyer it has been my experience that people rush into marriage without consideration of the consequences or commitment involved.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think it's more important than ever to have face to face interviews save that whilst the pandemic is on this is difficult. However once it is dealt with then face to face enables people to get a proper feeling for the couple, which is preferable.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice and Registration should in my opinion take place in the region where the wedding will take place. For couples outside the jurisdiction then notice can be given by emailed documents and scanned ID, however a face to face meeting prior to the wedding is essential.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

When you speak of the Schedule do you mean the document which is signed at the marriage? If so a year is too long. In Northern Ireland the schedule is only valid for the stated date of the wedding. In the Republic of Ireland it is valid for 6 months. It should be no longer than 6 months.

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It would depend on the circumstances. Usually the reasons you have listed above would be enough. Actually this is a solemn process and too much laxity around celebrants being switched at the last minute for no particular good reason would be counterproductive to engagement with the whole process. I work with my couples and build up a relationship with them usually over the course of a year. This is an important part of the process for a minister and the couple.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I really don't know. To be honest the question is not very informative or clear.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am afraid I don't know anything about Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am an interfaith minister, we hold a wide remit in that we are accepting of all faiths and none. Therefore we also conduct non religious ceremonies although as we are religious officiants the wedding is deemed to be religious. In Northern Ireland humanists are now authorised to conduct humanist legal ceremonies and the way this is done is that for the day on which the wedding takes place, they assume the temporary mantle of a registrar.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course any body responsible for nominating officiants must have a protocol in place to ensure its nominees are fit and proper persons for the office.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I cannot comment on which organisations should be proscribed, however, any organisation claiming to authorise persons to officiate MUST have a strict governance framework and be held accountable for the actions of its officiants

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

20 is a very small number. I would suggest a larger number, an historical traceable lineage and training, accountability and governance procedures transparently available for scrutiny.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree that the law should expressly exclude any organisation promoting unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality purposes.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Again this question is unclear. What do you mean by office? Officiants must have undergone a formal training and accreditation with their organisation. Whatever office they hold is irrelevant if they meet the criteria.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is currently the position in Northern Ireland and I think also in Scotland and it works well.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to certain criteria i.e.

Accountability

Training

Insurance

Declared standards or code of ethics

Continuous professional development

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as stated in my response to question 29

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that no conflict of interest should be allowed.

Fees should be reasonable only'

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No, my personal beliefs encompass both religious and non religious positions. It is sad that I cannot practice as both a religious and a humanist but they (the humanists) won't allow me to train with them as I will conduct ceremonies for people who want religious input. This is regrettable.

However if you are nominated by a religious organisation, you clearly can not operate independently in direct conflict with the beliefs of the organisation of which you are a member.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As with a driving license, officiants should have to have periodic checks on their continuing suitability.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

CPD is essential in order to be appraised of and comply with the constantly changing face of public policy.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The declaration of consent verbally during the ceremony is an essential part of the ceremony. If the parties are for example, non speaking due to disability allowance can be made for this but not otherwise. We are in danger of making marriage into a push button exercise if we lose all of the contents of traditional ceremonies.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to all the appropriate preliminaries and requirements being present.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. So many couples have said to me that they wanted a civil ceremony but the fact that no reference at all was to be made in a poem or song which had some spiritual content had made that impossible.

Please share your views below:

This is far too wide an area to comment on. It should be up the to the couple and the officiant .

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

There has to be an element of dignity and solemnity in such a ceremony. It must also be safe for the purposes of health and safety.

Marriages in homes where one party is terminally ill are essential. Not sure about marriages in the air

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You'd have to get permission from the religious owners.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the case in Northern Ireland.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes there is a risk that modern celebrants will have an 'anything goes' approach. This is why training, insurance and CPD is important.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The venue should operate its own.

The officiant should operate their own.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is to avoid falsified documents

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All three

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided always that there is a face to face meeting as well.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All elements should be in place.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only where a marriage takes place where one of the parties is terminally ill

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Are we going into the realms of cohabitation law here?

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This as far as I was aware was a consultation on the registration of officiants. The question is a legal one.

If a marriage is properly conducted then consent is declared as part of it unless it can be shown to be otherwise.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not to my knowledge

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sometimes haste is important and technicalities can be dealt with by email skype, etc,

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No idea

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

6 months

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

6 months

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only in times of national emergency

No

Please expand on your answer:

Evidence should always be provided as this otherwise might provide a loophole for others to abuse.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can see no reason to support this.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am sure there are

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this needs to be circumscribed and there needs to be evidence provided to confirm any reasons.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Organisations authorising officiants should not need to pay a fee

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People will pay for what they want

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is always good to enable weddings to take place as per the wishes of the couple

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This is not something I am familiar with so cannot comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Good idea

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None none

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would take some of the pressure off Registrars

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Really don't know. People will always travel to their desired destination to get married with friends and family.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People will always travel to their desired destination to get married with friends and family.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD88-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 11:59:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No, we do not require this information to be kept confidential.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not relevant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The Church of England shared the upset and disappointment of couples whose wedding plans were disrupted by lockdown etc but our priority was maximising the public health impact throughout. We worked pastorally with couples to ensure that, as far as possible, their wedding could be rearranged to meet their needs.

Our healthcare chaplains worked hard, while already under unprecedented pressures, to enable weddings of NHS staff to take place in hospital chapels.

A particular difficulty was felt by couples who adhered to a traditional view of the church's teaching on sexuality which proscribed sexual intimacy before marriage. This affected some Anglicans, but was felt more in some independent and other Christian churches and was paralleled among members of some other faith communities. There were identifiable mental health implications of delaying weddings for such couples and we attempted to minister pastorally to them.

At national level, we looked afresh at our understanding of the essential aspects of the wedding ceremony, concluding that the ceremony was, in essence, a public expression of a marriage and that it was therefore impossible to conceive of a wedding taking place remotely or with only the couple and celebrant present - as a minimum, there should be the couple, the celebrant and two witnesses to meet the basic requirement that a wedding take place in public, although others could, of course, join remotely.

We also concluded that there was nothing in Anglican doctrine (as opposed to the law as it currently stands) to prevent a wedding taking place outdoors within the curtilage of the parish church. In mediaeval times, most weddings took place in or outside the church porch. Had the government thought it helpful to change the law to allow this, we would have worked to make it possible.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that the present requirement is important in establishing two things - that the couple are who they say they are (by locating themselves geographically, even for a relatively short time, they provide a context within which enquiries could be made if necessary), and that marriage is a public institution and not a private arrangement, one which is about the couple's relationship in relation to the communities around them and not just between themselves.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No system of giving notice is perfect, but this is probably the most likely to work.

##### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This has to be a pragmatic decision, balancing the need to be flexible around a couple's personal circumstances with the need to move the process along in a timely way.

Seven days seems like a reasonable compromise. We would be comfortable with a little longer if practicalities were felt to require it. But the period should be as short as reasonably possible.

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

We believe that interviews should be face to face except in extraordinary circumstances. Research since lock down began demonstrates how much is lost in terms of human insight when meetings are held remotely. As an important reason for an interview is to establish the identities of the couple and the absence of coercion, it would be strange if the interview was conducted in a way which actively hindered the transmission of non-verbal signals.

Because it is as well to be prepared for the unexpected, it would be sensible to make provision for remote interviews in situations where face to face meetings are legally impossible - in other words, making face to face the default position, and making compliance with the law the only reason for

breaching this principle.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, we believe that this should continue to be possible. It is an expression of our common identity in a United Kingdom and Commonwealth.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is reasonable to make use of the extended reach of on line forms of notice, since the objective is to give public notice of an impending marriage.

We do wonder whether the incidence of genuine risk of harm is overstated - the report lacks hard quantified evidence. Exceptions to the rule should be minimised, or the rule is pointless, and the importance of public notice of a public event such as marriage should not be underestimated or diminished by creating too many exceptions. We suggest that evidence for making an exception should be brought to support a couple's claim to be at risk rather than relying on what may be unfounded or irrelevant anxieties.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this seems a reasonable period.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This ignores the way some churches (and doubtless other faith organisations) work where there is a team of clergy who are celebrants. Many - even most - couples who seek a church wedding are committed to the venue not a particular celebrant, and the team of clergy may need to change their rota commitments for many reasons. Although this does not happen often in the case of weddings, it is absolutely necessary to leave provision for a change of celebrant where emergencies or changed priorities (eg funerals which arise at short notice clashing with weddings set months in advance). Because the proposed shift from a premises based system to a celebrant based system does not accord with the wishes of most couples seeking an Anglican wedding, this proposal adds unnecessary complications which will make it harder for the Anglican churches to meet a couple's needs.

In smaller parishes where similar pressures can apply, it is necessary to leave flexibility for another Anglican cleric to step in, perhaps at short notice. See below:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - but by naming the celebrant in the first place (if the previous proposal were to be implemented) an unnecessary expectation is created.

The whole proposal of naming a celebrant in advance appears designed to accommodate the commercial celebrants and to ignore the ways in which Anglican weddings, most other religious or belief weddings - and, most importantly, the expectations of the couple - often operate,

Please share your views below:

This question is obscure. What "other circumstances" are envisaged? As noted above, our objective is to retain sufficient flexibility around celebrants who are clergy to enable them to do their multi-faceted jobs effectively, delivering the best service to both wedding couples and the others who have legitimate demands on their time, without imposing bureaucratic straightjackets.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems an unnecessary restriction on couples. The rationale is obscure, since the Anglican churches in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland all recognise each other's orders etc.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an outdated regulation (one hopes!) and it is not clear to us whether some analogue is needed to make provision for other cases where a church building may be unavailable or inaccessible due to emergencies. On balance, we think that this is a matter best enabled through local flexibility.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

We believe there is some merit in retaining the current system.

Many couples enjoy coming to hear their Banns called, but it may be more convenient in one church than in another. The calling of Banns in the churches to which both couples are related by geography helps maintain the principle that the wedding is a public commitment and that the communities of which they are a part are part of that public witnessing to the marriage.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. The clergy of the Church of England are not of one mind on this. Whilst recognising their duty to ensure that all weddings are freely entered into by both partners and that the wedding is conducted in accordance with the law, the question of documentary evidence was first raised in the context of immigration law and the proposals at that time appeared to subpoena the clergy to act as a branch of the Immigration Service - a move that brought considerable push-back from the clergy.

There is a balance to be struck here between requiring the clergy to seek documentary evidence for the things for which, as celebrants, they are responsible, and acting in proxy to other interests.

2. This feels like a sledgehammer to crack a nut. The vast majority of wedding raise no questions at all about coercion, inappropriate relationships or other law breaking. Where a suspicion may enter a cleric's mind, they may (and should be actively encouraged) to meet the individuals again separately. It is not usually difficult to create a pretext for so doing. The tiny number of problems that might arise by leaving this to the cleric's discretion seem disproportionate to the time involved and (more importantly) the implication of lack of trust in the couple) entailed.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

See above - the same considerations apply.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

Although there are some within the Church of England who argue for the second option (mainly on doctrinal rather than legal or pragmatic grounds) we believe that the current system has served the nation well for centuries and that, whilst it has obvious limitations in an increasingly mobile society, those limitations have not been demonstrably overcome in any alternative system.

Tradition is very important to the wedding plans of many couples, especially those who seek a church wedding. We therefore believe that the case for abolishing the present system has not been made.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This reflects the basic understanding of the celebrant's role which the Church of England has always supported.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our understanding is that registration officers support the principle that they should not be involved in presiding at religious celebrations of marriage, and we support them in that.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a single cleric can officiate at a church wedding, so we believe that one civil registrar is sufficient to officiate at a civil wedding.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any change to this arrangement would seriously impede the Church of England's duty to marry all those who seek to avail themselves of its services and who live within its parish system. This duty is integral to the Established nature of the Church of England. Any questions about the future of that Established status must be addressed directly on the issues and not at one remove by changing minor parts of the relevant structure in law.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is not for the Church of England to comment on this in detail, but we believe the proposal reflects the preference of our sister churches.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an established definition which is a good starting point, but in our view is not sufficiently rigorous (see the next answer).

Please share your views below:

We would propose that an organisation is judged not only by what it professes but how it behaves. There are secular groups who claim the status of belief organisations whose beliefs, as evidenced by their practice, consist predominantly in opposing religious beliefs and seem to have no substantive content evident in their public profile. They are, to all intents and purposes, single issue pressure groups (for avoidance of doubt, we do not count Humanism in this category). Should such groups be permitted to officiate officially at weddings it would (a) give state sanction to pressure group politics, and (b) risk damaging the dignity of weddings in general by sanctioning a ceremony defined by its public decrying of other people's belief systems. Church and other religious weddings are not shaped to mock other belief systems, but a wedding conducted by a group known only for aggressive secularism might.

So we believe a groups' public activities should be considered before opening to them the opportunity for officiating formally at weddings.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This definition is derived from a completely irrelevant precedent. The precedent comes from the law around buildings which, by definition are extremely localised. The proposal extends the "Rule of 20" to potentially national organisations for whom a membership of 20 in total is nugatory.

This would immediately open the door to official recognition of weddings conducted by all manner of sects, pressure groups, cults and groups formed for the purpose of decrying the public goods of marriage. We are particularly concerned that the definition potentially includes groups who defy basic human rights such as the right to change one's religion.

We have said more about this proposal in the narrative response from the Church of England, but we propose as an absolute minimum, that any group calling itself a religious body must demonstrate its public commitment (by actions as well as words) to the basic expressions of human rights in regard to the freedom of religion and belief.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - although we believe that the concept of "unlawful" is too rigid and the concept of "contrary to public policy or morality" too catch-all to be workable. We see nothing in the other proposals in this Consultation that would create a framework for making this proposal workable.

More work is urgently needed here to distinguish between established religious (and belief) traditions and the potentially darker side of cultic organisations. This is an area where the Church of England has much experience of advising public bodies without doing so from a position of self interest, and this advice would be available to the Law Commission if required.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This sounds sensible, although - if Anglican clergy remain officiants by virtue of their orders - it is not of direct relevance to the Church of England. It would, however, help make the differences between churches less conspicuous whilst continuing to express the Established status of the Church of England (and, residually in respect to marriage law, of the Church in Wales).

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is clear from the Consultation Document (although not from the question itself) that this provision would not include Anglican clergy .

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends what is meant by "independent". As we have argued in our narrative response, the reality on the ground is that the group referred to are essentially commercial celebrants who may or may not be "independent".

Whilst we recognise that commercial celebrants offer a service that some couple want, we do not believe that incorporating this commercial principle into the law and practice surrounding marriage and weddings is appropriate to the public nature, and dignity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would work well - as it already does - for established religious and belief groups.

If the other proposals about loosely defining "religious groups" by having 20 members, and incorporating commercial interests into the provision of wedding ceremonies were proceeded with, this kind of self-regulation would be inadequate.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the minimum requirement. But, as in our earlier answers, we are reluctant to see commercial interests involved in the legal solemnisation of matrimony and, for some groups who may wish to be involved, much more rigorous checks would be needed.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this principle but see no way in which it could be enforced. The concepts are simply too vague and too easy to circumvent.

We see no way in which the concept of profit could be defined to make this idea workable. It would therefore be immediately open to abuse.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only by limiting fees can commercial celebrants be prevented from making a business of officiating at weddings. There are no adequate measures proposed to moderate the profit motive and we believe the proposals about commercial celebrants are - whether by accident or design - destined to create a competitive free market in wedding provision which would be hugely detrimental to the dignity of the institution of marriage, and inadvertently

create a climate of competition for sectors of the wedding market, thereby pushing up costs to couples in contravention of the expressed aim of the Commission.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The way in which religious and non-religious belief groups are both defined in law and operate in practice makes the two categories mutually exclusive. No one operating as an officiant for a religious or non-religious belief organisation could - by definition - be independent. No one seeking to be authorised as both a religious and non-religious officiant could be acting in good faith or be capable of working honestly with a couple to represent their beliefs in the wedding ceremony..

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, the dignity of the wedding and the importance of marriage as an institution (not just the wedding) are not defined and raise interesting difficulties of definition.

It is precisely because we agree with this proposition that we disagree strongly with some of the foregoing propositions which risk undermining the dignity of both marriage and the wedding ceremony.

Unless the proposals can give some "teeth" to the defense of dignity in weddings, it is fruitless to propose a responsibility on officiants without guidelines on how to deliver that responsibility.

This is another area where a great deal more work needs to be done and where the proposals are inadequately thought through.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance can, however, only cover the basic functions. Unless more work is done on what may be meant by the dignity of the ceremony, guidance is sure to fall short of preserving this essential virtue.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that this responsibility must be shared between the organisation concerned and the GRO. Only by having some common criteria, centrally imposed and monitored, will it be possible to prevent a complete free for all of standards. The GRO has shown itself able to work in partnership with religious and secular bodies on aspect so marriage law and we believe this relationship can be strengthened so that the responsibility lies both with the organisation and natioanlly.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the natural follow-on from our answer above.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, to do this effectively, the GRO will need clear standards of professional practice for celebrants, which are unlikely to be feasible if a commercial free-for-all is the result of some of the other proposals being canvassed.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

We cannot see how such a time limit would be manageable in practice.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be normal practice for church officiants and applies even more acutely in the case of genuinely independent celebrants who may be unconnected to any professional body to enforce current practice.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to meet all the necessary requirements whilst remaining flexible enough to accommodate different religious traditions.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For many officiants, especially those from religious traditions, the form of ceremony will be set already, although there may be scope for optional or bespoke features in the ceremony. It is therefore right that the form of service should be a matter for negotiation and agreement between the couple and the officiant and not simply a consumerist requirement to provide whatever a couple demand.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This preserves the right balance of religious liberty.

It should be remembered that the Established position of the Church of England means that many aspects of its life and practice are regulated by Canon Law which is part of the law of the land and for many purposes subject to Parliamentary approval. So the distinction between the scope of the law and the practice of the Church of England is not quite so simple as the question implies.

However, the proposal makes no effective alteration to the status quo in this respect, which we welcome.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal, as it stands, is too vague. The nature of "religious content" needs to be defined more clearly.

The reason for this is to preserve the liberty of civil registrars who must not be required to use religious content in the course of their duties in order to preserve their rights of conscience. It is also essential that (for example) prayers invoking the blessing of God or otherwise pronouncing on religious matters, should be spoken by someone who professes the relevant beliefs for the sake of authenticity.

A clear distinction therefore needs to be made between religious content which involves the active participation of civil registrars and the expression of religious sentiments in the course of peripheral aspects of the ceremony.

We are comfortable with some relaxation of the current stringent rule prohibiting all religious content. This can be enforced in a such a draconian manner that (eg) readings from the common treasury of literature which refer, directly or poetically, to a divinity are banned, and this is too rigid. However, we oppose the introduction of religious material into civil weddings if the overall impression given would be that the ceremony itself was religious in character, and we wish to avoid a situation where any public servant is required to act or speak in ways contrary to their conscience.

The Consultation document rightly emphasises the problem of some registrars who interpret the rules with a degree of strictness that defies common sense. We believe, however, that this is best dealt with through the proper professional training of registrars and not through a complete deregulatory approach.

We note, yet again, that the Consultation document asserts as fact an opinion about the role of law in relation to weddings and marriage, viz: (6.106) "The law should not prevent couples from crafting a wedding service that is meaningful to them". If the only criterion for the form of a wedding is that the couple find it "meaningful", then there can be no limitation on the form it takes, whether with regard to religious content, "dignity" or the State's (or society's) understanding of marriage.

Please share your views below:

This implies some kind of list of permitted texts and would, we think, be unworkable as individual decisions to include or exclude material would be disputed.

A better approach would be to offer guidelines on the points in a ceremony where material chosen by the couple, religious or otherwise, could be inserted and the manner in which such material was deployed (ie who may speak words with religious content).

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

From a Church of England perspective, this provision seems redundant but harmless.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that the Open Door principle is integral to expressing the public nature of marriage. The Consultation Report itself speaks of the "powerful arguments" for the public nature of a wedding (4.78)

The argument that some couples are anxious about disruption is offered with no statistical basis and our experience of weddings is that the incidence of such cases is vanishingly small and can be managed with careful attention to security (as wedding ushers already do in most cases).

This proposal - like other aspects of the Law Commission report - seems to result from the failure to link the wedding to the institution of marriage, for which the ceremony is, so to speak, the portal. Marriage is a public institution (why else would the State have an interest in it?) whereas holding a wedding behind closed doors sends a clear message that it is a private affair. This is a fundamental flaw of reasoning in the Consultation Document.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Elsewhere, the concept of dignity has been introduced (as in Q.52) as a desirable or essential factor in a wedding ceremony. Yet no attempt is made to define the parameters which would protect or promote dignity and, in conversation, members of the Commission have declared that they see no way to do so. This is a classic case of willing the ends but not the means.

Instead, by abdicating any responsibility for enabling weddings to remain dignified, this proposal opens the door to frivolous, attention-seeking and farcical behaviours which could seriously undermine any notion that a wedding is a dignified and serious occasion in which both the State and the public have an interest. It is only necessary to see what has happened to the "dignity" of weddings in jurisdictions that make no requirements limiting locations to see that a kind of competitive absurdity is likely to develop among a small minority of attention-seeking couples trying to outdo each other in outlandish wedding locations.

Please share your views below:

There should be clear limits in law to where a wedding may take place for the reasons expressed above.

If the current premises-based system were abandoned (which we do not support) we would not be against some flexibility short of a commercial free-for-all.

In particular, we support the flexibility that would enable weddings to take place in exceptional conditions - such as the present pandemic or when a person is severely mobility-impaired. But these should be exceptions to meet particular needs and not the norm.

As noted earlier, we are in favour of retaining the Open Door principle, and this would guide our thinking about appropriate flexibility of venue. That principle would exclude weddings in the air (by definition a closed door situation). It would, of course, be outrageous if a public open space were effectively privatised for the duration of a wedding, so here the Open Door principle would have to apply anyway.

In this proposal, the Law Commission has simply abdicated from any notion that a wedding is a public occasion in which the State has an interest in favour of an unregulated free market approach. Whilst we would be open to further flexibility if a premises-based system was abandoned, it would not be

on this laissez faire principle.

#### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this contradicts the important principle that a wedding is a matter of public interest - a principle which reinforces the public necessity of establishing the identity and consent of the parties.

#### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to maintain the clear distinction between religious organisations, non-religious belief organisations and the State. They are separate categories. Weddings are not "Mix and Match" affairs where couples can take a venue from here, a text from there and a celebrant from somewhere else.

#### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a premises based system is abandoned, we believe that there should be central authorisation of wedding venues so that celebrants, wedding venues and couples know exactly where they stand.

If all restrictions on locations for weddings are lifted, we agree that the onus for approving the venue should be with the officiant.

#### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, see our comments above about the difficulty of defining dignity. We prefer that the responsibility here should lie with the officiant rather than the couple, but without clear guidance, the burden of ensuring a dignified ceremony will be both difficult for all officiants and will lead to conflicts of interest, especially among commercial celebrants, who will be caught between a couple's wishes and their own assessment of dignity.

Safety does not mean making provision for every conceivable thing that might go wrong, and damaging the fundamental meaning of a wedding for the sake of a hypothetical or extremely rare risk is unacceptable.

We submit that much more thought needs to go into the question of dignified and safe weddings.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although note our comments above. This simply shifts an impossible responsibility onto the GRO.

#### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a helpful safeguard, if a general laissez faire approach were adopted - but we do not believe it should be optional or compliance would be, at best, sporadic.

Please share your views below:

As we do not agree with the laissez faire approach which would necessitate such provision, we do not regard it as our job to say how it should work. If a laissez faire system is introduced, such provision would be necessary, although we believe it would inevitably be caught on the contradictions (eg around dignity) that we have highlighted elsewhere.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This accords with the measure that the Bishop of St Albans and the then Second Church Estates Commissioner piloted through Parliament in 2018.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England has been in discussions with the General Register Office to work together toward this outcome.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst we broadly agree with this proposal, the requirement in 3 and 4. that BOTH parties have knowledge of the circumstances is perplexing and not fully dealt with in the Consultation Document.

Intuitively, if one party is aware that the celebrant is not authorised (or that the relevant opt in had not taken place) the possibility - or even likelihood - that some deception is being practiced must arise. The implication of the proposal is that, if one party is not aware that the celebrant is not authorised, the marriage would not be void. We fail to see the logic of requiring both couples to be so aware when the awareness of one party strongly implies deception.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that 1. and 3. should not render a marriage void.

We believe that 2. is wrong - an absence of witnesses is hardly something that could happen by mistake. As we stress throughout this consultation, marriage is a public and not a private matter and the wedding ceremony must reflect this. If a couple and a celebrant knowingly conduct a marriage without witnesses, they are subverting the public nature of the ceremony and this should be included among the factors that can render a marriage void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this but suggest that the requirement in (i) and (ii) that both parties must be aware of the fault may be too weak. It would allow a case where one party has been deliberately kept in ignorance of the arrangements by the other to be nonetheless regarded as qualifying. Since such lack of transparency between the couple might be grounds for suspecting coercion, we would suggest that the rule would be considerably strengthened, and cohere better with the requirement that no coercion be involved, if the marriage was to be non-qualifying if only one party was aware of the relevant factors.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provision preserves the principle of making the couple responsible for those aspects of the process that are within their control, but not making the presumption of validity dependent upon actions of a third party over whom the couple has no direct control.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Consultation report is correct to propose that the beliefs of others are irrelevant to the presence of facts that can be tested.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal on balance.

Against it, a couple who have lived together as man and wife for a significant period of time (and 3 years seems reasonable to us) will have normally established a relationship that looks like marriage (to them and to others) and, had it been a legal marriage, would usually be ended by divorce. This reflects our view that "being married" is much more than having gone through a wedding ceremony and that a marriage is something created over time by the couple themselves. It is axiomatic in Anglican theology that the officiant does not marry the couple, they marry one another. Retaining the time limit would demonstrate that the fact of a null ceremony was not in itself sufficient to overturn a marriage formed by the practice of living in the understanding that the couple was in fact married.

However, we are cognizant of the cases -- mostly originating overseas and with one party being very young -- noted in the report, where over three years may have elapsed before it is humanly possible for the party seeking a nullity to take action.

On balance, we believe that making room in law for such cases is worth including.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such actions would constitute cruelty of a high degree. Strong penalties should accompany such actions.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

We know of no such problems.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There have been enough cases of people using false claims to have a terminal illness for the purposes of fraud to know that the claim can be used manipulatively and that this possibility in regard to weddings should not be ruled out. The Consultation Document also raises the important point that people with terminal illnesses may be more vulnerable to coercion. Whilst the vast majority of such cases will be legitimate and should be approached with the deepest pastoral care, an interview with a registration office is entirely appropriate both as a safeguard and as a way of supporting the parties discreetly.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that the necessity of obtaining a licence rapidly in cases involving terminal illness means that the process should be streamlined as far as possible. We do not regard the speculative argument put forward in the Consultation Document (that MPs in 1970 regarded the Registrar General as somehow the equivalent of the Archbishop of Canterbury) as persuasive. The objective should be to provide for rapid issuing of licences in a way commensurate with consistent decision-making.

If the principle of consistency can be secured through the involvement of the GRO as proposed in the Consultation Document, we believe that the authority to marry can safely be left in the hands of registration officers.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People with terminal illnesses will want to enjoy the maximum time together as a married couple as possible, but terminal illnesses do not all follow a single trajectory and flexibility is important. For instance, where the illness requires substantial and unpredictable periods of palliative care, setting the date of the wedding may not be straightforward. This proposal is both humane and necessary.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is consistent with the general thrust of the wider proposals.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with all these provisions except 3. Whilst national emergencies are likely to introduce unexpected constraints, no emergency is likely to be of such seriousness that it overrides the necessity for a wedding to be a public act with due safeguards against personation and coercion. If every stage of the process could be done remotely, then those safeguards would be entirely absent. At minimum, we believe that the ceremony itself must be attended in person by the couple and the celebrant with (if necessary) remote witnesses ("remote" in this context, meaning linked visually as well as aurally). Absent this requirement, the risk remains of fraudulent weddings taking advantage of a national emergency without the basic safeguard of a third party being physically proximate to the couple (or even the couple being together at the time).

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our experience during the Covid19 crisis showed a real demand from front line (especially NHS) staff for whom the risk of infection and possible death was real, to marry as expeditiously as possible. We believe that this is an entirely valid category of people for whom provision should be made.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As noted in the Consultation Document, this would be incompatible with the "Open Doors" principle which we continue to uphold. It appears from 11.106 that one motive for promoting the idea of weddings at sea is the commercial one that it would incentivise the registration of cruise ships to UK ports. We submit that this is an entirely inappropriate consideration in the context of a matter of such social significance as weddings and marriage.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the reasons above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

We do not believe that the definition of a cruise ship is robust enough to limit the provision to cruise ships only.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As we do not support the overall proposition, detail at this level is irrelevant.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Were this proposal to be enacted, which we oppose, this is the minimum standard necessary.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We know of no such demand.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Were this proposal to be enacted, and despite the vagueness of the word "reasonable", this provision would be useful in view of the wide variety of circumstances in which a wedding at sea may take place.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a fair balance between the need to recover additional costs and the problem of calculating every cost separately.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Terminal illnesses affect rich and poor alike. Compassion is best expressed in the quality and sensitivity of the service that the couple receive.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This, the most basic wedding provision, should continue to be available to any who wish to avail themselves of it.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is not appropriate for Local Authorities to, in effect, subsidise commercial wedding venues. The LA should be able to charge for the service they offer.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Distinguishing cases which "deserve" a reduction or waiver would be almost impossible in practice.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that the fee level, which has remained unchanged for many years, should not rise and that the cost of administration may more than negate the fee. The best option, in our view is to waive the fee entirely.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that, in the case of legitimate religious bodies (see our previous answers) and established belief bodies, officiating at weddings is offered as a public service and not for profit. For such bodies which perform many weddings and have a considerable number of officiants on their books, such a fee could be a deterrent to offering this service and thereby curtail the freedom of couples to celebrate their wedding according to their religious or belief commitment.

The matter is sometimes different for commercial celebrants and we have noted elsewhere that the proposed constraints on officiating at weddings for profit are likely to be unworkable in practice.

We believe that where the celebrant offers their services for profit, a fee would be appropriate, otherwise the State would be subsidising those who perform State functions for gain.

The difficulty that would ensue from making this distinction points to the problems inherent in the Law Commission's overall deregulatory approach which is certain to throw up a number of such (unintended?) anomalies.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We have no evidence that the present law discourages couples from marrying. In our extensive engagement with couples over weddings (almost 30,000 per annum), we see two quite different factors at work in restraining couples from marrying -- uncertainty about making life-long commitments and the perceived cost of a wedding with "all the trimmings". The only respect in which the law concerning weddings and marriage is a deterrent, in our experience, is among the few couples who object on principle to what they understand to be the social meaning of marriage and for whom a civil partnership is the new legal option (which often comes with all the same trappings as a wedding in terms of the social event surrounding it).

In our extensive experience, a couple's decision to marry is driven to a great extent by the social significance of marriage conferred by a wedding which conforms to the requirements of the law. It is precisely because the ceremony has a legal aspect, symbolised in the legal requirements, that the wedding itself, as opposed to the subsequent social event, is a matter of deep personal significance. That is not to say that some couples do not find aspects of the present law unintelligible, but most do recognise in the regulations the symbolic significance of the "majesty of the law" in which they are participating.

Consultation Question 86:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

For the vast majority of couples who marry in Anglican churches, the fee for the wedding is a small proportion of the amount being spent on the wedding festivities and trappings. As the fees for civil weddings are commensurate, we imagine the same is true in the majority of such cases. We cannot speak about the fees in commercial wedding venues.

In cases where the fees are likely to cause genuine difficulty, most churches have ways of supporting the couple in order to enable the wedding to go ahead without financial embarrassment - but such cases are few and far between.

In view of the very large amounts of money spent on the average wedding celebration, we do not believe that the fees for the legal aspects of the wedding are at all disproportionate nor a deterrent to marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We challenge the assumption that any savings involved will be significant enough to offer worthwhile benefits. As a proportion on the average spend on the whole "wedding event" the fees are small and for those who are seriously impecunious, a "no frills" option is available at reasonable cost. As noted, many churches offer weddings at the minimum cost possible.

We have no evidence that the scale of the fees is a deterrent to any couple wishing to get married or that they would benefit more than marginally by the proposed changes.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The proposals have no impact on the practice of church weddings in the Anglican tradition in respect of the venue itself except, as noted, that we would be open to consideration of weddings taking place within the curtilage of the church building.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See our answers above for our views on this suite of issues.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not applicable.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We do not believe that the current law creates any more, or more significant, impacts than the proposals put forward by the Law Commission.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We are disturbed that the arguments in the Consultation report turn primarily on a desire to create a lucrative "weddings market" in England and Wales. In our view, this is a wholly inappropriate consideration in relation to the interests of the law and the State in marriage.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We believe that this commercial consideration is wholly inappropriate to any consideration of marriage law.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We believe that this commercial consideration is wholly inappropriate to any consideration of marriage law.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

We believe that the proposals will be essentially cost-neutral to the Anglican churches.

We would be very concerned if any fee levied on the registration of officiants added new and significant costs to other religious or belief organisations.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNC-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 12:40:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The Bahá'í community does not have specific offices for conducting Bahá'í marriages as this is usually overseen by an elected administrative body. However, in Scotland and Northern Ireland Marriage Officers have been appointed by the National Assembly to act as legal marriage officiants. This could be adopted in England and Wales too. By recognising this office these individuals could be reviewed and possibly changed by the National Assembly without generating additional administrative activities should a name need to be updated.

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. For Bahá'í weddings this would be a duty carried out by the responsible institution, either the Local Spiritual Assembly or the National Spiritual Assembly, depending on the location, in consultation with the couple. There is no objection to this consultation to also include the responsible officiant if required by Law.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - This would be acceptable from a legal perspective, but from a Bahá'í administrative perspective the couple are not married until they have both individually said the Bahá'í marriage vow in front of two approved witnesses.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, providing the location is safe for all those involved in the wedding.

Please share your views below:

All locations are potentially acceptable, providing the location is safe for all those involved in the wedding.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. For Bahá'í weddings this would be a duty carried out by the responsible institution, either the Local Spiritual Assembly or the National Spiritual Assembly, depending on the location, in consultation with the couple. There is no objection to this consultation to also include the responsible officiant if required by Law.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

The Bahá'í community does not see any particular demand for this for Bahá'í marriages.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

As marriage has a particular significance in the Bahá'í Faith it is not felt that the current law would discourage couples. However, the proposed changes would make the process considerably easier for them and more spiritually significant. In addition, as Bahá'ís are currently obliged to hold a separate civil ceremony a single ceremony would prove less costly.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNJ-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 13:02:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Ceremonies

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDM7-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 14:17:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think as we are all being forced to do so much online in line with Covid 19 restrictions, this makes sense.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNK-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 14:26:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Zero.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Society travel has changed, couples have special places they wish to marry in, by insisting on the seven day rule, they can not always comply, or it is just something you do to comply with legal requirements and creates an expense for no real reason.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Check on documents, and legal requirements to marry.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Gives time to check out details of the couple.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think remote interviews will lead to fraud and sham marriages. As one party could be in a different country and the whole arranged.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I see no problem with continuing.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Rather than stop the planned event, which the first officiant will have checked everything is in order, I see no problem with someone else taking over. At the first interview photographs could be taken and attached to the paperwork, ensuring the correct people attend.

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Agree it is the way to proceed.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Calling for document swill help to ensure the legal side of things match up.

Meeting the couple separately will help to reduce sham marriages and forced marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Again this will help to prevent sham marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants should be trained and able to perform civil weddings, Celebrants are more about the couple and their ideal wedding, rather than just performing a legal requirement.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Providing they have had official training, there could be many types of organisation or beliefs.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Makes the wedding celebrants work open to many people, small organisations could be unable to carry out the work legally.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Providing they have had the correct training.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

By being independent and not tied to an area or office, couples will have greater freedom over where they get married.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without proper training the standards will fall.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Costs must covered, and a living wage.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants are bringing a couples dream wedding, such as location or time, theme weddings also take place. Must be completely free.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Blessings are very popular. Psalms are often requested.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Out of date, we now have the opportunity to bring weddings up to date and give the choices back to the couple getting married.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided permission is granted by the owner of the land or premises.

Please share your views below:

Allowing couples to have their marriage in their chosen venue is paramount in creating dream weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples may like to use their garden. Or to share with a club they are members of.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants will not go to dangerous or unsuitable locations.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We already do that as celebrants.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are trained in risk assessment.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

All the risk assessment and suitability will have taken place, officiants will be able to make a decision as to whether they are happy with the location and suitability.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Provided both parties are agreeing, except for prison, prison sentences are a punishment and withhold civil liberties.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

To many vessels to categorise, in general yes.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Provided they have had proper training.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be free to set there own fee's, as there maybe circumstances that they decide to give a reduced fee or not charge at all.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Couples are not able to design their wedding or the location due to the current situation.

We need a more flexible approach to weddings so that the couple can have their dream wedding without all the current red tape.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current regulations are too restrictive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It's not all about savings, it's about the choice to design your own wedding and location.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Availability of current officiers is very restrictive which is driving couples abroad for their weddings, ie they can get married on a beach setting.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Often venues can only have one wedding a day as they are restricted as to which room and officiant is available, by allowing | celebrants to perform weddings in any legal location will open the wedding market.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My own wedding was very restrictive and the time and location dictated by the registrar.  
It was not my wedding, it was for her convenience.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

They could open up locations and attractions for wedding use, bringing in much needed money.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Restrictive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Open up a whole new industry.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

There should be no costs, all costs will be passed on.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMP-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 17:38:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not currently married, recently divorced, but planning on remarrying in the future.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement is outdated and only imposes pointless restrictions on wedding locations, in a more modern society, where there are more options for marriages.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Using online procedures are much more in line with the century.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

If all the paperwork is in order, why could they not get married immediately afterwards?

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Seems a sensible precaution.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Once again, it fits with a more modern society.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why is there a need to specify at that stage?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously a substitute would have to be permitted.

Please share your views below:

Yes of course, the couple should be able to change officiant right up until the last moment.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Scotland and Northern Ireland are separate and have their own marital laws, so they should be treated separately.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I have no real interest in how religious weddings are conducted.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

See answer for question 16

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not bothered about religious weddings

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the second point, but consider 20 members too low for the first item.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

of course

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

potentially yes. depends on the office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although, what determines fit and proper, when conducting a wedding?

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I personally believe that fees for weddings are getting out of hand and that an upper level should be set.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is at no cost to the officiant.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the first instance yes, but there must be oversight by the GRO

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religion should not enter the legal civil ceremony at all - if one wants religious aspects, then get married under the auspices of that religion.

Please share your views below:

None whatsoever.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within reason and with appropriate permissions.

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a solemn and serious undertaking and the venue should not denigrate that sense at all

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be consistency with approval for venues, so a governing body will need to set the standards, otherwise couples can just pick officiants with no particular standards.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There needs to be set guidelines, that have no room for ambiguity. Any officiant in theory would be able to do so following the guidelines, but one would recommend an independent party be tasked with authorising venues.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not as far as i am aware, however, weddings for those serving a custodial sentence should not be permitted

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No weddings for those in prison.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No - cruise ships only.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Also by another passenger who happens to be a registered officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to be conducted by a registered officiant (non religious)

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No idea

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should still be a fixed time, but maybe extended.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Same fee

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No extra fees.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

off course the fee should be the same for everyone - equality!!!

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Conducting weddings should not be about making money, I am afraid constant addition of fees are unacceptable.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law limits options and needs to change to give couples greater freedom of choice.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs for weddings are ridiculous, the cost of getting a registrar to an approved venue is prohibitive and is all about money making - fees should be reduced to the bare minimum.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no response

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

the costs attributed to registration officers attending approved premises are ridiculous and should be dramatically reduced to a more reasonable level

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No response.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no response.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities will not want the monopoly of civil ceremonies leaving their grasp. It is a money maker for them and they will not want it shared with competent, fun, qualified , independent officiants.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No response

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No response

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Am not bothered by maritime weddings.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Those currently legally permitted to perform weddings will not want independent officiants to be able to conduct legally binding ceremonies, as it will take power and money away from them.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHY-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 21:19:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren PBCC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

I am a householder of children of marriageable age and also an authorised person for the organisation.

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Its been a hard time for everyone but what has made it even harder is that couples that have put everything into getting married have not been able to proceed because of restrictions in any gatherings. This has put a lot of extra stress and anxiety on families. In our case as a household its even affected employment.

As a father that firmly believes on the Holy bible and seek to run our lives in accordance with it, our daughters are both waiting to get married, have houses to go to but we do not agree with living together prior to marriage.

I feel that currently its a very complicated process to arrange a marriage so simplier registration of marriages and ceremonies in our houses would be far more suitable and currently would be the answer during the pandemic to stop the stread of the virus.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have been close to some couples that have married someone from overseas and it has been a very complicated process so this would certainly be more straight forward.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews remotely is a good idea but I certainly agree that any concerns should be looked into by an in-person interview.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

2 registered marriage officers would be required in the case one was not available for whatever reason.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should as long as the couple are happy with it and request it.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree if the officiant is the authorised person and the couple should be able to choose from their church if they so desire.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Currently the trustees of our organisation would nominate the officiants, however it should still be the organisation that nominates them even if they were allowed to be carried out in the homes.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We hold sincere beliefs about marriage as taught in the Holy Bible. We do not live together until we are married.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation with a genuine Christian belief , but may be different to public policies, eg. same sex marriages, should not be excluded.  
Any organisation that is encouraging unlawful or criminal practises should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes certainly agree as we don't have to pay for the service.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If marriage can take place in the house then it should not be a requirement to have open doors. All checks would be done prior to the marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this in view of allowing them to take place in the house but there would be some places that aren't suitable. The dignity of marriage still needs to be preserved.

Please share your views below:

I firmly believe that weddings should be able to take place in private homes. This would mean the whole occasion would be simpler, more relaxed and in the family setting. The family/household setting is very valuable to us as it's based on the Holy Scriptures.

Also there have been times when a marriage couldn't proceed when requested as the meeting halls had not been registered in time.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should be free to suggest the location but in our organisation the officiant would take responsibility to ensure it was suitable.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's very important that the location is safe & dignified and the officiants should be responsible for this.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance should be available but it mustn't hinder weddings taking place in private houses

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Could these be added before the wedding ceremony? It would be better if they could.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We feel that the proposal would make marriage more attractive and easier so therefore may result in more couples that are legally married.

I have witnessed a good number of couples that have had long delays in getting married due to the current restrictions, some still waiting today. This has led to greater anxiety and stress. As an organisation we uphold scripture and we do not live together before marriage.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriages in the home would save a lot of money for the family & couple and also save a lot money for the organisation in not having to open up & heat our meeting halls to facilitate the ceremony.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above answers

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I know of someone who has who spend nearly a year & a lot of money trying to get married to someone overseas due to the restrictions in the current law. It would be much better if it could be applied for online and the current notice period was reduced. Also the residence requirement should be abolished.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Many ways this would save costs:

- 1) Marriage in the home would save a lot of costs for the family & couples.
- 2) Marriage in the homes would save the organisation costs in not having to prepare the meeting halls.
- 3) Save costs for the government with a lot more done online.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDM6-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-25 21:59:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married according to the English law and have Christian faith

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

- Many marriages have had to be put on hold during the pandemic
- My daughter had to substantially delay her marriage
- it brought a lot of unnecessary stress on the couple and our family
- The couple were unable to get married therefore do not start their new life together (see below)
- As a family we have strongly held Biblical beliefs in the sanctity of marriage and do not live together prior to marriage (Ref:- Genesis 2 v 24; Ephesians 5 v 31).
- Importance of provision for a simpler ceremony held in our houses - minimal infection risk.
- It is important that there is a simpler and quicker process before marriage to secure certificates

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I would agree with this proposal

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I would agree with this proposal

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- If they are available and happy
- If the couple request it

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- The persons getting married should be able to choose their officiant from their church if applicable.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- We do have sincerely held beliefs on marriage.
- The sanctity of marriage is paramount in our community
- Persons do not live together prior to marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree that some organisations should be excluded

- Organisations that promote unlawful or criminal practices should be excluded.
- Organisations that have genuinely held Christian beliefs that are contrary to public policy (such as same sex marriage) should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

I welcome the proposal that weddings should be able to take place in private houses.

- Many would find it meaningful to have their wedding in their own home including my daughter
- The dignity and solemnity of the occasion can be fully experienced without other distractions.
- The occasion can be performed in simplicity in the family setting
- The occasion can be more relaxed
- Facilitate any food/ drink that may be had after the ceremony
- Facilitate the taking of photos
- Would have helped during COVID
- There may be other restricted circumstances where this would help
- This would overcome situations where new church buildings have not been able to be used – either not registered or no availability of the registrars to attend.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- The officiant would be sensitive to the couples' desire as to where they are married.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- It would be helpful if these details could be added before the wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A



Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I welcome the government's proposals

- Some persons may have been unable to get married because of COVID / other restrictions /overseas marriages
- I believe in not living together before marriage
- The proposals would facilitate marriage, while it would not impact on the number of our marriages, it may overall and this would be good.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

- Marriage in the home could save money for the couple and family
- Not opening up a large meeting room for a small ceremony could save money for the organisation

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

- It would help if the notice period were abolished or reduced from the current 28 days;
- the preliminaries could be done online;
- the residence requirement could be abolished.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

- Marriage in the home could save money for the couple and family
- Not opening up a large meeting room for a small ceremony could save money for the organisation

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMT-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 04:27:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Trained celebrants too

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMV-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 08:35:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think remote interviews are a good idea and would support that.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I would continue with that.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand this question

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a fully qualified civil wedding celebrant. Under the current statutes I cannot legally marry anyone. This can currently only be carried out by a registrar or a religious cleric. I believe this is a unfinancial monopoly for registrars and clerics.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above, a qualified civil wedding celebrant should be legally allowed to marry people.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if a qualified civil wedding celebrant can also legally marry people.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above only if a qualified civil wedding celebrant can also legally marry people.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is unfair that Humanists can marry people but not a qualified civil wedding celebrant who professes neither religious nor humanist beliefs.

Please share your views below:

Qualified civil wedding celebrant should definitely be on that list.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I believe this is an unfair financial monopoly for religious groups. So, only if a qualified civil wedding celebrant can also legally marry people.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree that "unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality" officiants and groups should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Again, I believe this is an unfair financial monopoly for religious groups. So, only if a qualified civil wedding celebrant can also legally marry people.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if a qualified civil wedding celebrant can also legally marry people.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential for independent civil wedding celebrants to be able to legally marry people and hence make a living like registrars and clerics.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They must be qualified wedding celebrants.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I completely agree

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As a fully trained and qualified celebrant I am entitled to make a reasonable living in the same way that registrars and clerics are. My training course was very expensive!

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I am also a funeral celebrant and the standard fee is the same as a minister's fee. The wedding fees should be the same for registrars, celebrants and clerics.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be up to the wedding couple who they want to marry them.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the responsibility of the celebrant's professional association.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the responsibility of the celebrant's professional association.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential for their protection

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registrars already have too much power. Independent civil celebrants who are fully qualified should be able to do this.

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDY4-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 10:49:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I don't need it to be treated confidentially

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am divorced

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Weddings have gone ahead as best as possible in the circumstances - we have kept everyone safe, have given them a call before the day to explain fully the processes and everyone has been grateful that we have been able to let them get married despite the extenuating circumstances of a worldwide pandemic.

Some people have wanted a full on normal wedding with 100+ guests and we have had to postpone many to next year because of this. But others just want to be married and are very happy with the service they have been given

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The only concerns are with regards to safeguarding. It would be worrying if people are shipped in to the country for the purpose of having a sham marriage and are given little choice

#### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is most concerning as the people involved would not be given the opportunity to say whether they are going in to the marriage of their own free will and could be coerced in to completing an online application. By the time of the in person interview they may think it is too late to do anything. I am also concerned that we would not know whether it is the same people completing the form online as attend the interview. It opens up the system to lots of different types of fraud

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

it needs to be more than 7 days. As I said before the person who may be being coerced into getting married will think it is too late to do anything if the ceremony and all the processes are already in place. This could be a major safeguarding issue

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All interviews should be in person and separately. If interviews are done remotely then there is no opportunity for the person to say whether they are being forced in to the marriage. If it is done remotely then how on earth would you have concerns over whether it is a forced or sham marriage. The person in question is already a good actor and they are never going to say anything where they are probably in the same room as the person who is forcing them. It is not a safe process at all.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes this is fine as long as they are done in person

#### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure about this as it could be giving fraudsters the opportunity to gather detailed information about someone in order to commit crime. GDPR standards must be adhered to.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a ridiculous idea. People get ill all the time and things change. If the couple are giving notice 12 months in advance of their wedding they might not know themselves who is going to officiate at their wedding. There needs to be leeway to allow for changes. The registration service could be changing the document multiple times over the course of the year which takes time and therefore costs money to do.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I don't agree that you should name the officiant in the first place. There is no point in doing this

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

they need to be done in all the churches involved in the wedding to allow for opportunities to object to the marriage

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I totally agree with this. Everyone should have to provide evidence and everyone should be seen separately so they have an opportunity to discuss any issues of being forced in to the marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes I agree with this

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

it would make much more sense if everyone who gets married follows the same procedures. I have done a lot of training with the clergy as many do so few weddings each year that they are not experienced in how to take banns or what documents they need to see. Most of the training they get is word of mouth from the person who precedes them and is a bit like Chinese whispers!

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is vitally important that these are adhered to

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers have training in place to ensure that they know exactly what the legal requirements are and what they need to do

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This depends on where the wedding will take place. From a safeguarding point of view for the registration officer then the venue needs to be a licenced venue with staff that are available to help if necessary.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are given training on what they need to do

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These people need to be trained and cannot just be nominated. Many of the religious organisations do not want the responsibility

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All civil weddings are non religious at present. I do not understand what benefits anyone is going to get from having a non religious belief wedding and what they can offer that we can't offer already

Please share your views below:

What can they offer that isn't offered already?

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If people want a religious wedding at their usual place of worship then that is fine. But if it is a non religious ceremony that they want then how will this differ to the civil ceremonies that are already available?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This seems like a reasonable view

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if this is going to be the case then there needs to be a clear list of people who are authorised to complete weddings and all the associated paperwork

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How do we know that these people are genuine, are not promoting forced marriage and have the appropriate training and knowledge to ensure that a marriage is legal?

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there could still be massive safeguarding issues. Local authorities have a wealth of experience in dealing with weddings and all the paperwork involved. If this is opened up to anyone then there could be issues where the independent celebrant could be sick and unable to complete the ceremony. They could be complicit in organising sham marriages too. People who help organise sham marriages are always looking for the next easy way to beat the system and this would be the easiest way possible for anyone

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They need to be regulated by an independent organisation

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They need to prove that they are having regular training and are keeping their knowledge up to date

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that they should be required to express their consent during the ceremony but I also think there should be an opportunity for the attendees to express if there are any impediments to marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most people who have a civil ceremony do not want any religious content but occasionally they would like a religious song playing or a reading that has some religious content and it would be nice to be able to offer this

Please share your views below:

Music  
Readings

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People need to choose what type of ceremony they want. If they want a religious blessing after the civil ceremony then that is fine

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should always be possible for people to make legal objections on the day to stop a wedding if necessary

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This literally opens up the arena for people to want to get married anywhere. surely this is supposed to be a dignified occasion? Also, what about the health and safety aspects for the officiants? Having to go out to each venue before the wedding to check that it is acceptable and meets health and safety requirements just adds to the cost of the wedding. I understand that the outline of this document was to make weddings more available to people at a cheaper price.

What happens when people have chosen to get married outside in a public space and it rains all day? How are you supposed to have a dignified wedding in those circumstances and how do you keep the paperwork dry?

Although I think it would be lovely to be able to offer weddings outside on a sunny day there needs to be options available with an inside space for signing the documents.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors is fine as long as there is an indoor space for signing documents and in case of inclement weather

On water is perhaps ok as long as the health and safety aspect has been checked

In the air -- not for me thanks. This would cost a fortune to arrange and the officiant would need special insurance surely

In private homes - I have concerns about the health and safety aspects of this. Having to go out and inspect a home before the day to ensure it meets guidelines would add to the cost of the ceremony and I personally would feel unhappy attending a persons private home on my own.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think they should be accessible to the public to allow for objections if necessary.

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Each venue should not feel that they have to offer any other ceremony other than the ones that they want to offer. Allowing a civil ceremony in a church doesn't really make sense

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel it should be down to a specific person who knows fully the information with regards to risk assessments and health and safety. Officiants could be putting themselves in danger if they don't know the procedures to follow

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

After it has already been approved. Making extra visits each time adds to the costs

Other

Please expand on your answer:

And who would they ask if they weren't sure that it met all the requirements? Would they be ultimately responsible if anything went wrong?

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that all premises should be pre-approved. You cannot turn up on the day expecting everything to be in order. What happens if you turn up and it doesn't meet the health and safety requirements? You would then be causing uproar to cancel the wedding on the actual day. And without seeing how they are going to set up the premises on the day it is not easy to see whether it will meet the requirements.

Please share your views below:

The local authority should do it on behalf of GRO

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be a much better process if these were pre-populated before the day as per CP schedules but then everything can be checked again on the day and any amendments made

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration is fine as long as the technology works and the people using the system are trained appropriately to use it. If officiants are only going to be using it on an ad-hoc basis then there are likely to be more mistakes

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there are no witnesses and the marriage documents has not been signed then how can you know it is a legal marriage. You might as well get rid of witnesses all together if this is what you propose.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no timescale

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The law for RG's weddings at present works (generally) but the fee of £15 is ridiculously low for the amount of work that goes in to organising a wedding of this kind. It is also quite difficult at times to get the GP to write a letter that has all of the correct information. If there could be a simpler way of doing this (perhaps electronically) then it would be good.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm undecided about this. Although I think it is important to find out that the terminally ill person is entering the marriage of their own free will, I think if that person was to give notice then this could extend the time taken before a ceremony could be performed. And in some cases there really isn't time to be waiting any longer

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is fine as long as the systems work and the timescales work in the same way ie that you can reduce the waiting period and organise a wedding at short notice for terminally ill patients.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the person is terminally ill then there is no need to have the schedule valid for 12 months.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the current covid restrictions it has meant that people in prison have to give notice again as their wedding cannot go ahead within the 3 months.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is open to fraud as anyone could be signing the documents. It means there would be more forced marriages as there is no way of knowing on the day whether each party is entering the marriage of their own free will if you are doing it remotely.

I believe the opportunity for sham marriages and forced marriages would increase dramatically if this was to be brought in.

If everyone is signing a different schedule then how can you be sure that they are all signing the same thing? There may be amendments due on the documents that you would then rely on the couple or the witnesses to make without any proper guidance. The chances for things to go wrong only increase when everyone has different copies of the same schedule.

Which version would be entered on to RON?



No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree with the provisions at all.

No

Please expand on your answer:

How do we determine whether someone might be at risk of death? Again, it is opening up the system and giving people the opportunity to commit fraud. All you would need to do is get one person to lie in bed pretending to be ill just so that they can get married quickly .

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How far is adjacent?

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this really

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

If you open this up then everyone will be arguing about what constitutes a legitimate vessel for a marriage.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If you are going to allow people to get married on ships then really the only people who should be conducting the marriages are authorised officiants but seeing as I don't believe that there should be independent officiants unless there is strict scrutiny, then I don't really believe that there is a good way to do this

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Everyone needs to be working to the same rules

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I've never been asked yet and I've been in registration for 15 years

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be the same rules for everyone.

I feel that certain qualified people should be responsible for the schedules otherwise there will be lots of misunderstanding, people will think that is their marriage certificate and won't return it at all and therefore the marriage will not be registered. Schedules will get lost, damaged and will be incomplete if the system is open to anyone to become a officiant

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

When there are housebound or detained notices it would usually take about 2 hours of a registrars time - and if housebound then we would usually send 2 people to ensure the safety of the individuals. This time allows for travel, access to the establishment (especially if in prison as this can take quite some time to have entry permitted/approved) and the time taken to take the notice manually and ensure it is correct.

### Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think the fee should be the same as other cases where a registration officer has to travel. Just because someone is terminally ill it doesn't mean that they are unable to pay the same as others.

### Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely the fees should be set by the registration authority depending on the service that the couple are wanting and the amount of time allocated to the ceremony?

Some people want short and sweet basic ceremonies whilst others want readings, music, extra vows etc and this takes more time and organisation which should be paid for.

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

in different areas the costs for travel and time for travel can be very different. The fee needs to be set by the local authority who know the time/costs of their area.

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be on a cost recovery basis and depends on how much time it takes to do each ceremony

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

I think the fee should actually cover costs. Just because people are terminally ill doesn't mean that they can't afford to pay.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How are they going to authorise an officiant without meeting them? I'm assuming that it would all be done on paperwork but how can you be sure that they will be genuine. I just feel that after bringing in stricter regulations recently and reducing the number of sham marriages this is just going to open the doors for sham marriages to start again.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law does not prevent couples from getting married at all. I do not understand why you would think that. Civil marriages are available for all - from a short and sweet basic ceremony to a top of the range ceremony with lots of personal additions. There are also options for religious ceremonies at most registered buildings with a range of different religions. As I said, I have been a registrar for 15 years and the only thing that stops people getting married is that they don't want to. With the introduction of civil partnerships for opposite sex couples we have seen an increase in people taking this up as they want to be in a legal partnership for financial reasons but they don't want the pomp and ceremony of a wedding ceremony. At present we are covering all bases.

The only people who are having non legal marriages tend to be couples who go through an islamic marriage and they are aware that they are married according to the law of their religion - but also realise that they are not legally married according to the law of this country. Most of those couples will then come to the register office and have a simple ceremony so that they can have a marriage certificate and make their marriage legal.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Register office weddings are available every day. There are a range of costs and types of ceremony to suit all budgets.

The cost of marrying in an approved premise is minimal compared to what they tend to be spending on their day. Paying £400 for their personalised ceremony is little compared to everything else they have spent. In all my years I have rarely been questioned as to how much we charge for the ceremony. Couples are happy to pay the fees involved.

Most people do not get married in places that are not authorised for weddings. There are probably less than a 1000 per year which compared to the total number of weddings is insignificant. I cannot understand why you would want to change the whole process and open up the system for fraud, increased sham and forced marriages to cater for a small few that want to get married in places that are currently not authorised for weddings. For those few who do want to get married in unregistered places they generally do not mind having a separate legal wedding and the added costs are minimal.

There are approximately 250,000 weddings in England and Wales. This is reducing because people do not see the benefit of getting married like they used to and do not see themselves in a relationship that will last until they die. Divorce rates are high and therefore the idea of marriage is not as attractive as it used to be. Also having children when unmarried is acceptable when years ago it wasn't. Even our prime minister has children outside of marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Everyone has different choices to make as to how they want their wedding day to be. Some want small and simple and others want large and glamorous. Register office weddings are currently available every day so I don't understand how there could be savings there. It costs us a lot of money and time to administer every wedding, especially with the current covid restrictions, as we have to contact every couple again to ensure they understand the processes in place. Prices are set on a cost recovery basis only.

I personally would not want to go to a venue or private home where there hasn't been any risk assessment or health and safety process and I wouldn't feel happy sending any of our staff out to a place that hasn't been approved either. How do we know that the venue or private home is suitable for a ceremony or is safe for an employee to attend? If visits have to be made prior to a wedding taking place and a risk assessment done then this will add to the cost of a wedding and not make it cheaper.

There needs to be a process of ensuring a venue is safe and adheres to health and safety standards. This means the costs for a wedding would be higher if venues are only going to be used once as you would need to do a separate visit to ensure it is safe each time.

Most people who want to have a ceremony in a non approved premise have to pay only a small amount more (£46) to have a separate legal ceremony. In some venues we offer a longer time slot on the wedding day so that they can have a legal wedding inside the venue and then another ceremony outside where they can exchange rings and vows. This is a good compromise at present. It would be nice for couples to be married outside if they want but there does need to be some guidelines or weddings will become like a game show and not the dignified experience they are supposed to be.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There is a fee currently to licence a premise for weddings and civil partnerships which can be prohibitive for some smaller venues. Also, the licence has to state every room that wishes to be licenced and for some hotels this can be difficult as they move things around a bit so it would be better to have a licence that covers the whole venue including the grounds so that weddings could be performed outside if the weather is nice.

There are very few people who want to marry at unlicensed premises as far as I am aware. And having a licensed premise ensures standards are met and that the venue has access for people with disabilities too.

Availability of registration officers is not normally an issue - with the current system it tends to be the availability of registers as we only have a set number of registers. When the schedule system is introduced it will make the process much easier.

There are a few venues in our area that specialise in just weddings and opening up so that people could get married anywhere could mean their businesses falter which would be a worry for them.

The costs of getting married in an approved venue is not prohibitive to couples and opening it up so that anyone can be an officiant will not reduce the prices. If you look at the prices charged currently by humanists they are very similar to those charged by the registration service. We have many years of experience, a training officer to ensure regulations are always adhered to and a team of people who assess our officiants on a regular basis. I would be very concerned if anyone could become an officiant without any training, without any continual assessment and without any regard to the legislation.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I do not believe that changing the law with regards to weddings will result in more marriages taking place. If people want to get married then they will get married now as has been shown during lockdown.

I also don't believe that many people will want a religious officiant at a venue. People who want religious wedding ceremonies usually want them at a specific church that they or their family have links to.

There may be a small number of venues that could profit from not having government approval but this will be at the detriment of those that are already providing weddings rather than in addition to them.

The cost of a wedding ceremony is the cheapest part of a wedding day. The thing that puts people off weddings is the cost of everything else - clothing, flowers, cars, reception etc. Where is the proof that changing the processes will result in more people getting married? My experience of speaking to thousands of couples over the years has shown me that most people are ok with the current system. If anything they would like the 28 days waiting period to be reduced or not to have to take time off work to do the notice of marriage (but with the new reforms this wouldn't change as there would still have to be an interview in person).

The impact on the registration service would be massive. We would be expected to input all the data from the wedding schedules that are returned to us and would not get any monetary benefit for the work completed. We would be there to sort out issues with paperwork and advise couples and officiants and would get no recompense. With less money coming in to the service and with current financial difficulties in all councils throughout the country I can only see that redundancies would be announced and the levels of service that we currently are able to offer would be reduced drastically with lead times increasing massively for appointment availability across all sectors of registration. Currently we are a cost neutral registration service - meaning that we cover our costs allowing us to complete all statutory duties without costing the tax payer any money.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law may need a few reforms - having schedules rather than marriage registers makes sense moving forwards, having the ability to marry people outside in a safe environment would also be nice as long as there is an inside area to keep paperwork dry if the weather turns.

The current way of taking a notice of marriage ensures that we are highlighting any issues with regards to sham or forced marriages as soon as possible. We can refer these to the relevant authorities if needed and allows time for investigation. If notices were done remotely or just by completing paperwork and posting then this would not allow time for this especially if the interview with the couple could be less than a week before their ceremony. I have personally been involved with cases where a sham marriage was arranged and if I hadn't met them at the initial interview, reported them, discussed with the police so that they could investigate etc then they would probably have got married as there would not have been time before the ceremony to do all this. It was only when I met them in person that I realised that the couple were not as it all seemed. My evidence ensured that they both went to prison and were extradited after their sentence. They had been arrested on their planned wedding day.

By separating the process of giving notice in to 2 separate sections (the initial interview over Skype/phone and then an in person interview) is doubling the work of the registration service and costing more as it will take more time to complete both sections of the process.

There have been a few occasions where couples have wanted to get married outside. We are lucky to have a few venues with licensed outdoor pagodas etc in our area so we are able to facilitate this on most occasions. However, it would be nice to be able to do a wedding in the grounds of a venue if the weather is kind. There does need to be some rules as to where people can get married or they may choose the middle of a forest, or a swimming pool or

anywhere else that could be considered undignified. We also need to ensure there is a suitable inside alternative available if it rains

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can see very few benefits of the new proposed scheme apart from the ability to marry couples outside should they wish to.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law means that couples have to be resident in the district for 7 clear days before they can give notice to marry. Sometimes this can cause problems when couples live abroad and want to come back to the UK to marry. However, the 28 day waiting period can also cause issues in this case. Seeing people over video link and then not having an in person interview until maybe 3 days before the ceremony means that any issues with documents (decree absolutes, death certs to show they are free to marry) are all last minute and if the couple need to send off for genuine copies of their documents it could mean that they are not received back and checked before the due date of the marriage. This would cause upset to the couple and could cost a lot of money of the wedding has to be delayed.

The issues of couples wanting to get married abroad will probably stay the same as the couple have to satisfy the authorities in the country they are getting married in.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As I mentioned above, couples coming from abroad to marry here (when they are UK citizens) sometimes complain as they have to be resident for 7 days before giving notice and then there is another 28 days waiting period which can be longer than they want to wait. However, it depends on where the couple are and the technology available as to whether the proposed system of taking a notice over video would work. We are then always going to have to wait for them to arrive in the country to ensure the paperwork is correct and that we are seeing originals of the documents. The computer system (RON) would have to be modified to ensure there are ways to indicate that the couple have been seen and that all their documents were seen (and genuine) before the authority to allow them to marry can be issued. This adds greatly to the processes within the registration office

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't have any knowledge of this so cannot comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no knowledge so cannot comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The costs to government and local authorities will be massive. We will end up spending more time sorting issues, entering details on to the computer system and organising visits to 'new' venues for risk assessments and health and safety checks with little recompense.

At present the registration service does not charge the customer for registering births and deaths and this costs the service a lot of money. Organising the return of schedules from couples and entering the details on to RON will also be a time consuming task as we already see when asking for returns on a quarterly basis from the clergy.

Many businesses rely on revenue from weddings and with more competition they will lose revenue. These businesses spend money creating safe environments, catering for people with disabilities and other less scrupulous businesses may come in without the same safe environment and offer cheaper weddings. As I have said before, I do not think the number of weddings will increase as people will still get married or have a civil partnership now if they want to.

The only religious or non-religious belief organisations that will benefit from these proposals are the humanists and there is nothing that they can offer in their ceremonies that we cannot offer currently.

Independent officiants may see an increase in business as they may be more inclined to do weddings in peoples houses and back gardens without going through any of the safety checks that larger organisations insist on. They do not have the overheads of larger businesses so can offer cheaper fees possibly. However, they will only be doing the ceremony and all the other paperwork will still be down to the registration service to complete.

Couples may like the options of being able to get married anywhere. Where does this stop? Skydiving? In a swimming pool underwater? The most popular part of the reform is to allow couples to marry outside or in their own houses which I think will be popular amongst couples but this opens up other cans of worms as already described above. The costs of getting married will not be reduced by enough to make a difference to couples so won't encourage them to get married.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDY6-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 11:16:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Myself and my partner both have earth-based spiritual beliefs and practices. We would want to be married outdoors, in a place of our choosing, and ideally not have to have, in effect, two weddings in order for that ceremony to have legal status.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This makes sense for so many reasons in this day and age, and would render the process more accessible for everyone from folks travelling for work through to people who are housebound for any reason. I do think an in-person interview should be required if concerns around a forced marriage are present.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Based on so many people's experiences this year, I wonder about making the validity of the schedule even longer - or at least having a clause around extending it in the event of extenuating circumstances beyond the couple's control (eg bereavement or a global pandemic!)

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I support a process that is the same for everyone, regardless of religious affiliation.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I support a secular process that is the same for everyone, regardless of religious affiliation. It is no longer sensible, appropriate, or fair for one religious group to have access to different legal rights to other groups. If a couple wishes to put up banns, that should be a purely socioreligious choice, with no impact on the legality of the process.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

As above, I support a secular process that is the same for everyone, regardless of religious affiliation. It is no longer sensible, appropriate, or fair for one religious group to have access to different legal rights to other groups. The process for people of the Anglican faith should be the same as it is for everyone else. What the clergy then choose to do as part of the religious requirements of their ceremonies should be up to them.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As above.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I support a secular process that is the same for everyone, regardless of religious affiliation. It is no longer appropriate, or reflective of our society, for one religious group to have access to different legal rights to other groups.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is a really interesting and potentially effective way of making the legal process of marriage fairer and more accessible. As an interfaith minister, I would hope that this would ultimately lead to me being able to officiate legal ceremonies - and the duties above could be easily integrated into the (non-legally binding) ceremonies I officiate at present.

#### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if members of other faiths and interfaith organisations also have a path to being recognised as officiants. Even then, I think officiants of any faith path should all need to undergo a piece of training that is the same across the board when it comes to the legalities of officiating a legally-binding ceremony.

#### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



This seems eminently appropriate, in combination with universal training on the legal aspect of officiating.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As an interfaith minister, my role is to cater to all faiths and none, rather than encourage my clients and congregations to conform to a particular belief. While I work under a code of ethics, these apply to how I comport myself in service to others, rather than offering an explanation of the nature of humanity/the universe. Our work is both valuable and necessary in an increasingly diversifying society. The definition above needs to be widened to include organisations that seek to serve the welfare of humanity in an ethical manner, without prescribing a particular belief system for those they serve.

Please share your views below:

As above - interfaith organisations, and perhaps also organisations seeking to serve the needs of minorities whose needs or identities often fall outside prescribed religious routes.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this doesn't necessarily fit those officiants who seek to serve people of diverse faiths and backgrounds simultaneously. Officiant training organisations need to be included in this, such as the OneSpirit Interfaith Organisation that trained me.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Maybe. I think you would have to be very careful about what you include within those purposes, and that definition would need to arise from a diverse focus group - ideally one including representatives from communities that have been subject to public discrimination in recent years.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I can see how this might be practical for some organisations, though doing things on a case-by-case basis is always safer. Again, as long as there was a universal piece of training/requirement that everyone had to pass through, this could potentially work, but it incurs greater risks I suspect.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is long-overdue, and so important!

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - and I would suggest that everyone also have to undergo a process like the one described below for independent officiants, with a view to limiting nepotism etc.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am so looking forward to this being an option for myself and my colleagues!

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think the same guidelines should apply for everyone - perhaps a price bracket/spectrum within which any officiant must choose their fee, that is adjusted annually in line with inflation.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above - the rules should be the same for everyone.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And you'd need to be clear about what that meant in terms of any additional labour required etc

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It might be worth having some criteria that are recommended to all organisations for this, regardless of religious affiliation?

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, being crystal clear about the requirements and the process here will be very important.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, being crystal clear about the requirements and the process here will be very important.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And it may be worth having a short review process on a semi-regular basis.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This feels long overdue. A wedding is such a precious and meaningful day in so many people's living and loving, a day that so often ends up constricted by sociopolitical factors. It's high time the people entering into the commitment to be wed had more choice over how the form of that commitment expresses their beliefs, wishes, and ultimately, the unique love that they share.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hopefully with the proposals above this will become defunct.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. It's high time people had more choice about where their ceremony takes place - in accordance with everything from their beliefs to their means. Hopefully thorough preliminaries will mean there's no need for open doors through which someone could disrupt proceedings.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is both more appropriate to the deeply personal nature of these ceremonies and the diversity of faiths in this country, and also makes having a ceremony so much more accessible.

Please share your views below:

No - it's high time several of the above were possible (outdoors and in private homes), and I see no reason why the others should not be.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

'Safe' is a term that can be clearly defined based on health and safety requirements.

'Dignified', on the other hand, is much more subjective, and I think legislators should think long and hard about whether it is within their remit to define the qualitative aspects of a wedding in terms of its character or feel. I've facilitated commitment ceremonies that would probably not be described as dignified - because "dignified" was not on the list of qualities pertaining to the couple or their love or their community, all of which the ceremony was designed to respect and reflect. If legislators do take it upon themselves to impose an arbitrary quality on millions of people's ceremonies, they should have a clear definition of what they mean; after all, is the intention to punish ceremonies that are not "dignified", but are reflective of and appropriate to the relationship in question?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds like unnecessary additional bureaucracy on top of a decision that should be between the couple and the officiant.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As a celebrant primarily serving the LGBTQ+ community, I know all too well that there are many instances where any inclusion of family of origin in a ceremony would be completely inappropriate, even unsafe, for one or both of the couple. For example, if one partner's family of origin rejected them for their identity years ago, or is opposed to the union due to prejudice, the couple should not be forced to include their family of origin in any way on the day - including on the documentation. As such, I think point three should only apply to wedding where one or more of the parties is aged 16-18.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a same-sex couple can find a licensed officiant, either of their own faith or interfaith, who is willing to marry them, no external authority should be able to impede that. Leaving that provision in place supports discrimination.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There may be instances where witnesses should still be required, eg marriages between younger adults, or where there is a reason for concern re sham marriage.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, with the exception of item b ii, as per my answer to question 57

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is high time there was more legal recognition and rights for long-term cohabiting partners.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consent is a complex capacity, impacted by sociopolitical factors as well as personal circumstances and experience. For many people, their capacity to access and express consent is a life-long process, and it is certainly an area that can be impacted and impeded by other people. It may take longer than three years for someone to recognise consent was not in fact present for one or both parties.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I wonder whether some provisions to allow for some flexibility could be included in the schedule - for example if one of the couple has a relapse that causes the wedding to be postponed past the cut off date.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above, and having seen so many weddings postponed in this last year due to "unforeseeable circumstances", it would be good if there were some allowances for flexibility included.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And there should be a provision that the interviewer for the civil preliminaries can ask for an additional in-person interview if they have reason to believe that, for example, one or both of the parties may not in fact be fully consenting.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Naval ships come to mind - for example if the couple are members of the crew?

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other independent officiants could also be authorised for this role, as this would benefit both their own industry, and any burgeoning wedding industry aboard ships, by offering those getting married a wider choice of officiant alongside their choice to be married at sea.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other independent officiants should also be permitted to conduct ceremonies aboard ship.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Considering the overlap between financial instability and the situations in question, I do not think this fee should be charged to the person seeking to marry. It is effectively discriminatory towards people who, eg, for health reasons beyond their control cannot travel to the registry office.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps provision for a voluntary donation equivalent to the usual fee could be put in place, for those instances where money is not an obstacle for the couple in question?

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

As an interfaith minister in this country, I can currently officiate the ceremonial side of a wedding, but not the legal side. This effectively means that couples who wish to make their commitment to one another in a ceremony of the sort I officiate have two separate decisions to make: Do they want to make their commitment to one another in a ceremonial context? AND/OR Do they want to be legally married? If one of the outcomes of this survey was the approval of independent officiants providing the legal aspect of weddings as well as the ceremonial, I do believe more people would decide to do both, rather than consider doing just one or the other.

I also anticipate that a change in the law in terms of where couples can be married will lead to more of those couples who, for religious/spiritual, and/or financial, reasons, wish to be married outside, at a private residence, or in another place that is not a church or a vastly expensive wedding venue, getting married legally as well as having private ceremonies.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above - I do think all of these present a barrier to legal marriage, for reasons both financial and spiritual, and also because of the limits these place on a ceremony that should reflect the love it is consecrating and celebrating - which is often as unique as the people who share that love.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

All of these savings will support not only more couples being able to contemplate legal marriage - but also more couples being married in a way that truly celebrates their love, and that they can look back on happily. This may seem like a small thing, but it does contribute to marital happiness and stability. The savings in both time and money suggested herein will take out some of the stress from a process that should be joyful, and serve to further bind the people partaking in it together.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The suggested changes will have a huge, and hugely positive, impact on venues across the country. If the Government does enable independent officiants to officiate legal weddings, this will positively impact the lives and vocations of an entire profession. In short, this must be a good thing for the wedding industry, for potential couples, and for the economy more widely.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I foresee benefits to both sides - and in turn benefits to our tourism industry. My fellow celebrants in Scotland spend most of their professional lives catering to couples from overseas who come to get married, or receive a blessing, in beautiful natural locations in Scotland. I see no reason why that



should not extend to England with these changes in place.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

One potential cost will be to those businesses who have been able to afford to maintain a licence for legal weddings to take place on their premises, and have been charging extortionate fees to couples for the privilege. However, if they do not have to pay those fees in order to maintain a license, and if they have a little more healthy competition, perhaps some of the costs to couples will come down, which I sense is of greater benefit to public interest, and may in turn contribute to more weddings taking place.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDM3-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 11:24:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Very challenging time for Registration staff and for couples extending dates on marriage authorities would have helped workloads instead of booking more legal notice of marriage appointments

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

need to carefully control overseas residents being able to freely to book a wedding to keep sham forced marriages from taking place in UK and not doing residency

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Very difficult to manage timelines and resources under existing staffing levels

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

practicality of workloads and timescales especially if given on a Friday and Register Office is closed at weekend or Bank Holiday at least 2 weeks needed

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

only for ill health reasons under the supervision of a hospital/hospice or GP at a patients home

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes under the correct regulated procedure

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Existing system can be improved maybe display in all local council offices in more prominent places

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

very difficult to know staffing details 12 months beforehand it should be generic for the whole team to be permitted and name shown closer to date of ceremony it does limit flexibility if staff member named is ill on day of ceremony

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again very difficult to administer

Please share your views below:

no as I don't agree with the idea

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

depends on how devolved nations independence rules change

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

should be circulated further afield

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

there should be controls in place yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes to prevent a forced religious wedding

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

there has to be a system in place for civil preliminaries to prevent fraud and forced marriages

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

for security reasons and for work involved 2 registrars should be present for remote weddings and 1 registrar for registration offices as is the case for civil partnership formations

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

especially relevant for relatives of nominated officiants who want a church wedding

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

don't understand question

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

need to understand why 20 members limit set in question

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

it should be kept generic

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

need to be monitored and observed and regulated

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

need experience/competency check

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

there should be a professional code of practice

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

need reviews on competencies every few years especially if wedding levels low over several years

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

hymns

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

subject to health and safety

Please share your views below:

not every officiant would be comfortable in every setting ie fear of heights health issues etc

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

ie family farms etc

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A higher body

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

should come under another role

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes but still another role

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

approved colleague to specialise in this area

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

too open to fraud

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDME-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 11:25:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Parent , recent marriage of my daughter has prompted me to respond to this consultation.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

UK

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am personally in a marriage recognized by the law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It was my choice given my Christian belief to have a legally binding marriage.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My daughter was married between the two lockdowns during the current COVID 19 pandemic. According to my daughter's biblical belief's she (as we do) strongly uphold the sanctity of marriage and the couple do not live together ahead of marriage (Ephesians 5 v31).

Her marriage was very stressful during this time with not knowing when she would get married (was initially planned for May time). The proposal to change the laws is therefore hugely supported by us as a family. With simple online procedures for registration and provision for marriage in the home(as you have proposed), this would have been a huge benefit to us, saved a lot of stress and would have allowed the marriage to go ahead without any risk of infection.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, makes it more workable for different situations

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes , agree. Whilst we certainly hope for no more pandemic's we can't assume. In our case this would have been a huge help.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes agree with this proposal. In line with modern methods of communication.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree with this

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes logical sense to have a second officiant in the event of , illness etc

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant in my view needs to be an authorized person as agreed by the couple and chosen from the church if necessary. I agree with the proposal to being able to hold the ceremony in the home if desired and then the couple reserve the right to choose an authorized person.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The sanctity of marriage is paramount and should be respected and upheld in every way. See Hebrews 13v4 "Let marriage be held every way in honour" and 1 Corinthians 7v 39 "A wife is bound for whatever time her husband lives"

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Some organizations should be excluded- anything unlawful must be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Covered in previous comments

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The persons should be fit and proper in that they are authorized by the holding organization and have the couples consent too

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given that houses and other venues will be authorized, control of this should be via the couple and/or religious organization.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Broadly speaking yes, whilst upholding the sanctity of marriage. Marriage is a bond entered into for life and therefore a serious occasion although happy! in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Be able to hold a marriage ceremony in homes would have had a significant benefit in my own case as stated at the start of this consultation. It would have helped with making for a more streamlined event and elimination of any COVID related risks. I can also think of numerous other situations where this would have an advantage. eg in the case of a disabled person. It would also overcome any venue related issues eg where a venue is not registered, or potentially bad weather conditions preventing travel or making it awkward for the bride.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, needs to be a level of control

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Needs transparency and the dignity of marriage to be upheld at all times

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I would welcome some of these changes as per prior writings. COVID prevented my daughter from getting married and these proposals would have made it possible. The wait caused a lot of stress and created complications from a job perspective. It also made it very unsettling for the entire household.

The proposals would facilitate consideration for all circumstances and in our case would have certainly made it much more workable.

My moral belief is that couples should not live together ahead of marriage and therefore the law should allow for those who want to get married in a way that suites their moral standing.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Reduction of the 28 day notice period would have helped greatly in our case.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Its clear that the proposed changes will mean costs can be saved by the government, organizations and the couple. I look forward to hearing about the positive changes!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDM2-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 13:32:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Rev. [REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]  
Register of One Spirit Interfaith Ministers  
Association of Independent Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Greater London

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I was in a cohabiting relationship when I had my children. Upon our separation I was not treated fairly by the Child Support Agency/Child Maintenance System over a 20 year period despite my efforts to seek justice all the way to the Independent Case Examiner which allowed my ex-partner to get away

with unpaid child maintenance of over £70,000.

Also I was unable to receive support from the Surviving Economic Abuse organisation as an unmarried mother.

I have therefore been forced to bring my children up in a level of poverty described by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation as 'severe poverty' and my time out of the workforce spent parenting alone has left me unable to secure employment as a woman 'returner' despite having gained a first class honours degree, being the recipient of Fellowships from the prestigious Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and the Royal Society of Arts and having a solid Curriculum Vitae demonstrating many further trainings and continued professional development.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

There were no legal barriers in the 1990s - however the culture at that time made co-habiting appear to be without stigma and gave me to understand that I had rights as a common law wife. This turned out not to be the case.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

No preference

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Perhaps also more widely in local press and online

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers should restrict their duties to purely civil/secular weddings with no belief content

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding officiants from the Church of England and the Church in Wales should be ordained

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants are highly trained officiants who serve the vast majority of civil wedding ceremonies that cater for couples with no affiliation to organised religion yet who do require some spiritual content in their ceremonies.

Similarly, Interfaith Ministers serve couples who may be of different faiths, have no faith, or who subscribe to aspects of several faiths ie whose faith and beliefs are highly individualised.

Therefore, I think that any non-religious organisations that the Government enables to officiate at weddings should not be defined to mirror the definition of a religion, but should definitely have a high standard of training in celebrancy, ceremonies as well as the socio-political and religious historical context of marriage.

Please share your views below:

(Strangely construed question?!)

There should be a list of types of organisations for the purpose of officiating at weddings that are not religious belief organisations ie

Register of One Spirit Interfaith Ministers

Association of Independent Celebrants

Both of which are professional bodies that offer rigorous training, conditional membership, insurance and codes of practice as well as supervision and continued professional development.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Contemporary society is now so highly individualised and post-modern that people who don't attend organised religions often describe themselves as 'spiritual-but-not-religious' and everyone has their own personal beliefs about marriage that can't be put into any cultural box. Couples nowadays want to tailor their own ceremonies, 'cherry picking' from aspects of many traditional religions as well as creating meaningful ritual actions of their own.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality should be expressly excluded from having any civic responsibilities.

This also raises questions around the Church of England and the Catholic church's notorious histories of paedophilia and forced adoptions and their subsequent cover-ups...

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

One would hope that all organisations whether religious or non-religious belief organisations would have comparable standards by which individuals achieve a position of office and one would hope that would prove sufficient eligibility for becoming an officiant ... however, this needs independent scrutiny and a level playing field that would be better served by external examination eg an RQF NOCN Level Diploma.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Professionally qualified independent civil celebrants and ordained interfaith ministers should be able to be authorised and included on the public list of officiants.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely - and they should also have completed recognised training.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Belief organisations whether religious or non-religious pay their officers a salary and therefore they should be prohibited from making a business of officiating at weddings.

Independent civil celebrants and interfaith ministers are self-employed and vocational so they should be allowed to continue to make a business serving the wedding industry. Both of these categories elevate the expression of the beliefs of the couples they are marrying rather than representing or promoting any religious or non-religious belief system and serve a valid market need. Therefore, in order to operate their business, they must make profits to survive.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure where a conflict of interest would arise, and I agree that there should be no limits on the fees that independent officiants can charge for officiating at a wedding. There is already an established marketplace with a wide variety of independent celebrants catering to a wide variety of clients from budget to high-end. There should be no legislation to restrict the operation of their businesses and market competition is normal and desirable for couples who want choice and quality in planning their wedding ceremonies. An independent celebrant is a supplier in just the same way as a caterer, florist, photographer or wedding dress supplier and should be free to operate their business unimpeded.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for the same person to be nominated by both a religious and a non-religious belief organisation - that is a contradiction.

However, it depends how organisations are classified as to whether an independent officiant is representing the couple's beliefs or whether they were acting in the capacity of representing the religious/non-religious belief organisation.

ie - Humanist celebrants are definitely representing the non-religious belief organisation Humanists UK and should therefore be treated in the same way as religious belief organisations such as the Church of England. It should be impossible for the same person to be nominated by both Humanist UK and the Church of England.

But One Spirit Interfaith Ministers, although they have received ordination as Non-Conformist Ministers, do not represent any single religious belief - indeed they represent those of no belief and all beliefs - and so should be treated in the same way as independent civil celebrants and therefore be able to be both authorised as an independent officiant as well as nominated by One Spirit Interfaith Foundation.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, with the caveat that this should be guidance only, as couples should retain the freedom to receive the ceremony that they desire on their special day and officiants should be free to utilise their creativity in including any ritual or symbolic actions that the couple desire.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Anywhere

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safe - yes. Dignified - not necessarily. Couples may want any location. As long as the ceremony itself is conducted in a dignified manner, the location need not be restricted.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance only

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant should be given and the legalities should be the same as territorial weddings.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any independent officiant

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any independent officiant

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There is a growing demand for destination weddings which may also include on board ships

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No set fees - officiants must be free to set their own fees.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Performing the legal minimum requirements only. No ceremony.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers should be restricted to operating minimum legalities within the confines of the register office.

Civil weddings outside the register office should be officiated by independent celebrants at free market rates and include ceremonials as well as legalities.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Nominating bodies should assess the application before sending to Registrar General for approval. There should be no costs incurred by the Registrar General and the nominating bodies should include the authorisation fee along with the awarding process after training. ie authorisation should be included in successful completion of training and membership of a nominating body/professional organisation eg Association of Independent Celebrants

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes
2. Yes

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is restrictive and costly

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Yes, there would be savings if the laws were changed according to your proposals, especially if independent celebrants were given the mandate to perform the legalities in line with what already happens in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

All businesses including venues would have a rise in opportunity if there were an increase in the number of weddings and if there were more freedoms for independent officiants to perform the legalities rather than as per the current restrictive and outdated system.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

As an independent celebrant I look forward to progressive change in the marriage laws, however I am concerned that there will be cost implications for me in the process of obtaining official recognition/authority to become a listed officiant.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDM1-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 15:52:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Several marriages have had to be put on hold due to the pandemic.

There are three such situations in my knowledge from the local branch of our church (I am an Appointed Person.)

We have strongly held beliefs - biblical - as to the sanctity of marriage; we do not live together prior to marriage. These beliefs are based on Genesis chapter 2 verse 24 and Ephesians chapter 5 verse 31. This has, in some measure, caused unnecessary stress for the couples involved, also their families. I see the importance of being able to hold a simpler ceremony in our houses - which would ensure low infection risks.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would make it more straight forward for persons coming into England for marriage.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would simplify the pre-marriage process, reducing the need for at least one Registry Office visit.

##### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I would see three days as adequate.

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I would agree with this proposal.

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I would again agree with this proposal.

##### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree with this proposal, the convenience of not having to visit a Registry Office to see the bands would be beneficial. I have had the personal experience of needing to regularly visit a Registry Office whilst on the look out for a particular notice to appear.

##### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a huge step in life; due to any unforeseen incidents that could arise, it is necessary for an extended period of time to be allowed.

##### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are two officiants at our local church; any delays are therefore nullified if one is not able to attend through sickness or any other reason.

##### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Same answer as at Question 11

Please share your views below:

I would agree with this proposal, mainly should the couple request it.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant would be the Authorised Person or the Assistant Authorised Person from their church; the choice should be able to be taken by the couple.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current nomination of authorised persons is handled by the trustees of the registered building; I see this method of control as necessary to be continued.

I believe that this method of nomination would need to be kept in place should there be a move away from the current building based system.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal confirms our strongly held beliefs on marriage.

Persons do not live together before marriage.

The sanctity of the marriage bond is fundamental to our church.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Churches or organisations that hold genuinely based Christian beliefs should not be excluded from nominating their officiants, even if these beliefs are contrary to public policy or morality.

I believe that organisations that promote unlawful practices should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see this as a necessary control measure.

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again I see this as a necessary measure for the control of our beliefs and views on marriage.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a church, we do not charge for our weddings or any services.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These proposals largely reflect the current practices of our church.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is current practice.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The checking of impediments prior to the marriage ceremony would eliminate the need to conduct the service with open doors. Should ceremonies be performed in private houses, there should be no requirement for open doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst the dignity of the ceremony needs to be recognised, I would broadly agree with this proposal. This would allow for the needed change for marriages to be conducted in the house.

Please share your views below:

I sincerely welcome the proposal to allow for weddings to take place in private homes. Whilst retaining the dignity and solemn character of the occasion, the ceremony can be performed in the more relaxed, family setting, without other distractions. This would help facilitate the serving and enjoyment of refreshments taken after the ceremony, also any photography. It would have helped during COVID, also other restrictive circumstances could be better carried through. It would be more meaningful for many couples to be able to be married in their own home.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As well as preserving the solemnity and dignity of the marriage, the officiant needs to be sensitive to the couple's desire as to the venue.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

According to our strongly held biblical beliefs, the dignity of the venue needs to be upheld in line with the ceremony.  
Also, the couple and all who attend the wedding should be safe and in no way distracted from the occasion by any inconveniences.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I view this proposal as reasonable just so long as the criteria for home weddings doesn't become too prescriptive.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Could these details be considered for being added before the ceremony?

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to keeping up with the times, not knowing what lies ahead...

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense submission to our held beliefs confirms these factors.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Christian beliefs.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense, time efficiency measure.

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I would welcome the proposals being put forward.

With our beliefs surrounding marriage in place, (we don't cohabit pre-marriage) I believe that the proposals would largely facilitate marriage.

Whilst not greatly impacting on our own church's number of marriages I can see that the proposals for the wider community could be a benefit for all.

Some persons have not been able to marry due to COVID is an example (marry from home.)

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marrying from a private home could save money for the couple and family concerned.

Not opening up a large meeting hall for a small marriage ceremony (such as we carry out) would save money for the church.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is restrictive for persons travelling from overseas to get married in England and Wales.

It would be of benefit if the current 28 days notice period rule could be reduced or abolished.

It would help if the preliminaries could be carried out online.

It would be of benefit if the residence rule were to be abolished.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs to local authorities and government could well be reduced by moving the whole marriage application and procedure forward on an 'on-line' footing.

Marriage in private homes would save money for couple and their families, thereby encouraging increased numbers of marriages.

Opening up large meeting halls for a small ceremony would be a cost saving measure if current legislation were altered.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDND-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-26 16:13:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think it is fine for interviews to take place remotely as long as there are strict guidelines in place to identify the possibility of forced marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I don't have a particular opinion on this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. A wedding is an important thing for the couple, as well as sometimes involving a lot of money. It is essential that a substitute officiant should be able to officiate if necessary.

Please share your views below:

I think this should be allowed. It may be that a couple realise after a period of time that they cannot work with the officiant they originally chose. They should be able to choose another officiant if they feel the need.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this process would truly update the marriage process and make it more relevant and easy for modern couples and how they would like to be married.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only one religious officer is required to officiate at a religious wedding, so it makes sense that only one registration office should need to officiate at a civil wedding.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As far as I am concerned, that is a matter for the church to decide.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is what is already happening in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is time for Wales and England to come into line with the rest of the UK.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provides some solemnity and gravitas to the officiant role.

Please share your views below:

I think there could be such a list. At the moment, I cannot think of which types of organisations could be included.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends what is meant by 20 members who meet regularly. Would this mean that the 20 members have to meet up in the same group, or that at least 20 members meet up in smaller groups throughout England and Wales.

I agree that a sincerely held belief about marriage is important but, as couples like to have a great deal of input into the content of their wedding ceremony, a standard wedding service would not be helpful or appropriate.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree with this.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think named individuals only.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is important for ensuring compliance.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the independent officiants are properly trained by a registered training body, then I would agree with this.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is very important.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with this. Officiants need to make a living whether they are nominated by religious or non-religious belief organisations in the same way that independent officiants need to make a living. It would be better to put a cap on what the former are allowed to charge rather than saying that they are required to work as volunteers which is what this implies. It is a hours of work, preparing a couple for marriage, writing their ceremony and then travelling to the place where the marriage will take place and leading the ceremony. I do not think that many religious/non-religious officiants would be happy about having to do that work for nothing.

A priest gets paid for his/her work, which includes conducting weddings, so, indirectly, they are being paid for conducting weddings. I do not see why officiants, who may well not be paid by their religious body, should be expected to conduct weddings without being paid for it.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Referring to my answer above, either all officiants should be limited on what they can charge for officiating at a wedding, or none of them should be limited.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure that I see that this would be a problem but maybe I am missing something.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. This is really important.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this to some extent as long as the guidance is clear about the ensuring the wedding is legal but not prescriptive on any other area of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. As long as the organisation has clear protocols for doing this and has been made fully aware of its responsibilities in this area.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony



Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I don't really understand this question.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No. No limitations as long as the choice of venue shows proper respect for the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is up to the leaders of the religion or non religious belief organisation that owns the religious or non religious venues to have their own rules regarding the above. I don't think it is a matter that needs to be laid down in law.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Maybe locations that hold lots of weddings could apply for approval and be given a certificate showing that they are approved. I imagine this could be managed much as the approval of locations for weddings happens at the moment.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with 1. and 2. Not sure about 3. as so many people do not have both parents or even one parent and what does the occupation of parents have to do with their children's marriage??

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of forced marriage I think this time limit should remain.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If someone has a terminal illness, they may only have a few days to live so they should not have to waste time on giving notice and being interviewed before the schedule is issued.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think the current law discourages couples from getting married. If they really want to they will. I think being given more choice will make couples getting married easier and more satisfying for them.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think it is difficult for couples to have to effectively pay for two weddings when they want to have a wedding led by an officiant which is their "wedding from the heart" but in order to be legally married they also have to pay for a registry office wedding. It seems to remove some of the meaning of the wedding for them.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Weddings are expensive and anything that helps to reduce the cost for couples, I think, must be a good thing.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMN-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-27 12:17:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With couples free to marry all over the country, it seems an unnecessary and costly requirement.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Due to time constraints, the seven days minimum period is a fair period of time to carry out a thorough interview

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

With the increase of online conferencing, people understand better how to conduct an interview online. However, the possibility for an in-person interview to be available if there were concerns should also be included.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

In certain circumstances as indicated above notice should be given to if one of the couples is outside England and Wales

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If the officiant has used social media to voice views that may not be appropriate or are opposite to the views or beliefs of the couple

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The information should be available online

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should also have additional training to ensure they carry out all the legal requirements. To be recognised just by virtue of their office should not be enough

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As celebrants are involved in every aspect of the wedding ceremony, they should be able to apply to the General Register Office to be authorised. They should be able to show they have completed a recognised qualification which would make them very qualified to be included in the public list of officiants.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There need to be more safeguards in place rather than the nominating person declaring they are 'fit and proper.'

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All organisations should be transparent in their financial gains from officiating and should be prevented from active marketing.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants should declare any conflict of interests when officiating and be free to market their business in a commercial sense.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be in their declaration

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a standards committee or ombudsman to ensure that officiants follow the same set of standards and couples have a body to complain who will act impartially.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is to be an increase in officiants, there needs to be a body to ensure standards are maintained and the public are protected if an officiant does not carry out their responsibilities in a fair and legal way

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a body separate from the General Register Office to ensure impartiality.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe this should be reviewed periodically

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that should be standard with all officiant's so they all have access to the same personal development and it is consistent throughout England and Wales

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is an important point and that some religious content should be allowed if the couples request it.

Please share your views below:

The use of prayers, psalms and hymns should be permitted as some couples of faith can't have a church wedding due to availability or cost

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would help those who wish to get married at a place that is special to them but still has a legal significance. It would also help those couples on a limited budget

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Venues which provide minimal space for witnesses or participants should be avoided, especially as the wedding is a legal process. Private home, outdoor space and waterways would be fine with tight regulation.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure why public access should be available if the officiant is following the correct legal process.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues should not be seen as a 'venue' so I agree the law should prohibit the mixed-use of religious venues and weddings.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant would be able to advise, and if the couple were unhappy they could seek a different officiant

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There would need to be clear guidance on what is defined as 'dignified.'

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Management of wedding locations can change, and a pre-approved process may overlook when locations fall below standards.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The security of electronic registration should be thoroughly checked before this is proceeded with

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should undergo training and be governed by the standards of officiants

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I think there should be the option to include some religious element to the ceremony if requested.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the fee should be set regionally as travel costs vary throughout the country

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

I think there is a discussion about whether any fee should be charged if a person is terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be fair and commercially competitive for the pre-approved location and the locations not pre-approved

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A charge should be made but not convinced it should be standardised nationally.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law discourages many couples from getting married as the process is lengthy, and the system of registrars and churches currently able to officiate legal marriages has resulted in the decline of marriages.

Celebrants are now a popular choice for couples, the majority have completed a detailed training course that in some cases results in a recognised qualification. They are not however permitted currently to complete the legal part of the ceremony which is disappointing to the couple and can be an additional expense in terms of money and time to complete.

By broadening the number of officiants able to facilitate a legal marriage in the location and officiant of their choice will greater increase legal and happy marriages.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current is outdated and costly.

Approval of licenced venues is confusing and has contributed to the escalating cost of getting married by these venues.

The current law also reflects by many couples having to finance two ceremonies, the legal marriage and the wedding ceremony afterwards.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDHG-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-27 16:27:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Milton Keynes Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

NA – however many couples believe they can marry again in England after having a religious ceremony in their country of origin that was legally binding in that country. There seems to be a demand for a UK marriage certificate so this should be explored as part of any reviews.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We find that some faiths and independent celebrants do not always explain their services are not legal. Therefore better regulation should be in place so that couples could pursue damages if this was not explained/it causes issues at a later date for either party to the non legal ceremony.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

No

Please expand on your answer:

NA

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None shared by customers

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We found couples fell into 2 groups - those that being married was the priority and therefore they wanted to go ahead with just witnesses, and where possible the minimum of guests and with no extras around the marriage; and those that the celebration with the wider family and the big day was more important and these couples have postponed to future years in the main.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - The duration should not be the qualification; it is more about proof of address as registration districts can only take notices for residents within their area currently. If this gets opened up to allow registration where the couple wants this should be open to births and deaths also. May need better fraud checks.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree the first stage should be electronic where possible so a central system should be available so identity can be checked in a different way going forward and links made. In this day and age post and paper forms should be the last resort. The only issue with "any" district would be why would anyone give notice out of area/surrounding area without good reason? It may overwhelm smaller districts if people can go anywhere if the same model of notice is in place as now with such reliance on outdated paper based systems and systems that require multiple data input. Fraud or sham checks need to be in place to ensure checks are in place at each stage (access to national rather than just local records to flag multiple notice applications/marriages etc).

In person appointments are the check the person giving notice is the same person and their declaration that they are free and willing to marry. This is often when immigration/visa issues, fraud or sham is suspected and reported.

This makes the process 2 part and therefore may have cost implication for provision to accept/approve first part and then hold the face to face element. So this needs to be costed and charged for so that local tax payers are not subsidising this service.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

This depends on the legal basis/purpose of the wait period.

The wait period is for objections so there would need to be a better system of display/raising an objection in place.

3-7 days is such a short period and would mean if there are any issues with divorces or other documents the marriage will not be able to go ahead. This will lead to much disappointment and stress for the couple. It is not easy to move a ceremony!

It would also lead to peak demand close to ceremonies and register offices may struggle during peak periods.

Most couples do not understand the wait period so it needs to be much clearer.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

With the right measures in place this could be possible, but as a legal process it carries risks, and we would want the local authority to be covered for these.

If electronic signatures are required how would these be captured. Technology is lacking and so it may become a postcode lottery if some districts can offer and others cannot.

Spotting forced/sham/fraud and capacity issues is not always straight forward so the risk is it may be missed until the point of remote

interview/completely or being missed is a possibility.

There would need to be strict criteria to be followed to justify which couples must attend an office to give notice or again it would differ in different areas/be open to discrimination claims.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

We need a straight forward process that applies to all couples.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - Agree there should be a national display system that requires no interaction from the local registration service once the notice is completed. This would remove an administration task/cost for the register office

How would proof of at risk/harm be qualified? What evidence would couple need to provide?

#### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why is there a date for this to expire? Surely if we are giving a couple choice they can give notice as far in advance as they wish? Many couples book their wedding 2 years (or more ahead). Or if the proposal is to have very short wait period between notice and authority should this actually be a shorter period too? So 3 months maybe ... with a fee to extend/or renew maybe to cover costs?

The purpose of notice is to check the person is willing and free to marry. Covid has shown the expiry date is problematic and has caused many extra expense and stress (couples and local authorities).

#### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We agree the qualification of the officiant should be checked to ensure a legal marriage can take place but naming them maybe problematic at anytime other than on the day. This would mean there being an authorised list of officiants to pick from to be entered on the schedule. This would be problematic to get all these names added to the notice system and to be kept up to date (as it is now with authorize places of marriage etc).

The local authority costs for issuing replacements would need to be covered.

The person conducting the marriage should be able to add their name and print the schedule ahead of performing the ceremony so all officiants would require access to this system.

Should we be looking at something other than a signed piece of paper to confirm a marriage took place?

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a requirement for sure as we are never able to confirm who will carry out a ceremony until some months before but this does often change.

This assumes only one person will be at a marriage in future so legislation would be needed to change this from the 2 required now for a marriage.

Will there be a possibility to co-opt someone not on the officiant list to perform a ceremony in extreme circumstances?

Please share your views below:

What other circumstances would the substitute be needed?

#### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All couples should be treated the same regardless of religion

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These should be published online along with notices if we are to have banns and notice going forward

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

These should be published online along with notices if we are to have banns and notice going forward

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The same process should be followed and system used for notice/banns so a national record is maintained for all couples marrying/CP. This should include the same checks of identity and other criteria.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As this is a personal declaration both should attend in person/make the personal declaration in an online format is possible – again the same process should be followed by all.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

To make the system simple and fair to all the same process should be followed by all.  
This ensures a simple process ALL couples follow to reduce issues and reduce possible sham etc

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes however:

- 1 – is this a second check of freedom to marry as now for marriage?
- 2 – who will set these requirements/check they are included?
- 3 – will wet signatures be required still? Many contract signings are electronic these days so could this be on a hand held device?

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So will the approval by the RG include the sector one may work in?  
In order to be fair to all should all be able to officiate at any type of wedding?  
If this is to open opportunity for couples should they be able to choose what type of ceremony they wish and who to deliver it?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but requires legislation change and then means lone working needs to be considered (additional cost of any training/lone working devices etc)

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So there would be more than one list of who can officiate at a wedding? Really there should be one list.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This conflicts with the RG fee for approving officials who can perform a wedding.

If various different organisations are nominating will they charge a fee/how will they manage quality etc?

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To give couples true choice they should be able to pick the celebrant service they want whether it be faith/non faith or a mixture of both.

Please share your views below:

This was covered under a separate review and comments provided to Panel.

However anything that is contra to any legal requirement or that of moral or good nature.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Above needs to have more clarity around how long the body has been in existence and and to match requirements of faith groups

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - certain groups should be excluded and the list would need to be updated/amended

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

As individual names are needed this would not work for checking the officiant is qualified to perform a ceremony.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The RG should keep a list of all officants and this should include faith/non-faith and civil.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be one list managed centrally with regulations to be complied with by all (and be monitored)

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All should be fit and proper and an assurance that is regularly reviewed should be in place – what is fit and proper must be detailed in regulations

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as above, but needs to apply to all.

Who is providing training and monitoring CPD? How will this be funded and costs recouped?

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to apply to all performing ceremonies so not just faith/non faith groups.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What would constitute a conflict of interest?

If the purpose of this law review is to make marriage simpler and cost more transparent then there will need to be publish fee's for all types of ceremony.

The costs of a registration office/religious premise are likely to be much more than a small independent and we need to ensure a more level playing field for all offerings so how will this be funded.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the case now for religious/civil provision

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This must contain elements that must be included - so more than guidance.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes and no – someone needs to monitor that checks and reviews are in place. If this is left to organisations bad practice might not be spotted or acted on.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be oversight.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Oversight and checks are a must.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No; at least an annual review should be needed with a fit and proper check

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But must apply to all and not just independent officants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be laid in regulations – will marriage become a written contract in future so if a couple choses they can read and sign any/all declarations and then move on to whatever else they wish the ceremony to include?

If the notice covers the impediment then it would not be needed – the actual ceremony might be a simple yes if all but consent is removed.

This depends on the legal standing of marriage – if brought inline with CP it could be a written declaration with confirmation (wet signature or electronic confirmation)

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes so long as it includes all mandatory elements and nothing undignified.

Who will check this is the case?

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the changes proposed are around making marriage simple, and fairness and equality then there should be some standard form of words to be read/said and agreed?

Otherwise we will have variations still and legality could be called into question.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – how would it be decided what makes it identifiable? Examples are always helpful but would need to be set nationally to prevent individual interpretation.

Please share your views below:

As above.

Consultation Question 46:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as a couple should not need both in the future if the religious person conducting is licenced

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would mean the only objection possible would be at notice stage so this needs to have a wider circulation; otherwise agreed

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed so long as H&S can be assured and options for bad weather (wet/heat/cold/light) are also available.

Guidance on location to enter at notice/schedule needed (esp if in the air/open water/outside).

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Some form of approval from the place the marriage is to take place – for example we have many places in Milton Keynes that would provide a lovely backdrop to get married in or at (park/bandstand/garden) – but this may not have the approval of the land/building owner. So how would that be managed and insured against risk?

How would fire safety be managed in private houses?

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed – but there needs to be easy and safe and agreed access for the celebrant

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the venue allows any type of ceremony it should be permitted - otherwise couples do not have free choice of venue as many religious and belief groups may use shared buildings/grounds suitable for marriage

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the officiant or officiants governing body that decide - but to do so a visit may be needed so can this be charged for? It may have to change on the day due to bad weather or other issues at the site.

However is fire safety/overcrowding an issue if there are no statutory requirements in place?

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – but nothing about having approval to use the site is in above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – also a risk assessment format needed/approval to use should be in place and reportable if any issues are to occur at a later date

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but would be same approval – but a choice of one off inspection for a specific date or for a specific period/number of ceremonies before a further check needed maybe

Please share your views below:

The officiants or their governing body

A formal risk assessment and approval should be gained with maybe some fire risk approval - for large events it may need council approval too

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – but would this detail not already be on the document from notice or before the ceremony?

No witnesses or officiant details?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in Wales - if in England the choice should be both or English

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but that should be at the same time as these changes to ensure better security and completion of records – why would a delay be needed? The savings would come from electronic processes and many legal processes are electronic these days.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Well if the following are not made good the marriage should be void – as the record cannot be registered otherwise – or are we saying the verbal contract stands regardless of documentation? How would this work in a court of law?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is about the legal definition and what would void a marriage. It may be a marker for fraud if the marriage was to circumvent tax or access to benefits such as pensions.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may come to light many years later - like bigamy - and therefore there should be no time limit

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None other than fees as these should not be subsidised by local authority tax payers; potential for tax avoidance/immigration etc

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All should follow same process

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be the same as any marriage if for the same fee

The location may change so 12 months maybe too long – or can the location change to any place?

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be standard but depends on rules around address and place of marriage

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – this would have helped this time round  
Yes – but measures would be needed maybe?  
Yes – as above  
Yes or have electronic signing

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes so long as immigration rules brought in line

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but at the same fee as any other notice/ceremony - also we need to ensure deaths are prioritised so may need more clarity around what this means or we could end up doing 100's of marriages for those who may die and not have capacity to deal with the dying.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Down to legislation and being able to add address to schedule

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As above - if people can get married anywhere then it should be any vessel so long as it is safe and fit to do so

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who will marry them? Surely the officiant would need to be on the official list and it is the place that can change rather than the officiant?

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - anyone who meets the criteria to be an officiant and is registered

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All must meet same criteria

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As all other weddings

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We cannot comment

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, there must be a time limit even for these to ensure they are returned ASAP – if electronic would alleviate this issue.

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could only be an in district visit. If couples can give notice anywhere this would be problematic as it could be many miles away. So if it's a statutory fee travel time and mileage must be added to the statutory fee to enable us to recover costs.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

The same statutory fee should be charged in order to be fair to all couples and the tax payer should not be expected to subsidise. Couples would be happy to pay the fee and are surprised at the cost now. Travel time and costs vary and so this needs to be recoverable.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the fee covers all costs of provision. How long would the event be timed at?

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But if that is the case why would the ceremony fee not be on a cost recovery basis too? Plus any travel/mileage costs.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So are we suggesting GRO set fees on our behalf or is another Government body to do. Why would it be different to above – maybe the check lasts for a period of time and therefore would last for venues hosting more than one ceremony? So maybe a one off check or multiple use option both costed as appropriate.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As different areas pay different pay grades/allowances for weekday, weekends and bank holidays staff maybe unwilling to work for a fixed amount as costs for service provision will need to be taken out of any national fee set. Any fee needs to include the service provision and this varies from district to district and celebrant to celebrant so how would the averaged time/cost be worked out. Some districts have over an hours drive to some ceremonies and allow longer for the ceremony than others.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure fairness this would need to apply to all organisations who officiate at ceremonies or provide additional services such as faith organisations or independent celebrants.

Most celebrants seek to make a profit to cover costs/make a living.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No – often these take longer so it would be better to allow an additional charge for any time going over the agreed time allowance.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither - I understand the service this provides as a last wish by many couples however the cost should not be borne by other couples or the tax payer. If we can only cost recover on other services how is this type of ceremony covered?

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Would this fee be payable by all officiants – faith groups, independent celebrants, register office staff etc?

Will the local register office have any role in administering this for the RG? If so these costs must also be covered and paid to the local authority.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. we do not believe this to be the case
2. There are sufficient options now to allow all couples to get married or form a civil partnership. We do not believe the changes will lead to a massive increase in marriages/CPs.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. If all costs can be recovered these may be more available
2. The biggest cost is usually the venue so the cost for the registrar/celebrant is not a big deciding factor
3. As above
4. Celebrant fees are often inline or more than the fees payable to registrars
5. This separate wedding tends to be a statutory ceremony so for £46 is not a big cost and unsure why it is a concern

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. This only applies to a few couples; couples that want a big ceremony will still have a big ceremony and not want a statutory ceremony and a celebration
2. It may reduce venue costs for those couples wishing to use a back garden or cheaper venues (so those who do not wish to use a hotel etc)
3. Cost need to be recovered and so by that very nature those wanting the big day will be paying for the big day as more than the statutory charge will be paid; those that want the statutory element only will do that and not have a separate ceremony so costs are not the barrier.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. The current costs are spread across ceremonies and for most larger venues is not an issue.
2. Supplying staff to cover ceremonies has not been an issue except for all couples wanting the 2 pm slot.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. smaller venues or household can provide a service. A risk and fire assessment would be needed to ensure the venue is safe and therefore not all costs can be removed.
2. this may be an issue if all want the 2pm slot; staff need to be able to work a full day where possible or alot more staff would be needed is they are all booked for the popular time and depending on location travel time may cause issues too. It is unclear how we would match resource to these various proposed venues especially if travelling times varied.
3. venues would not have an issue so long as it meets with their beliefs and terms of business. Being able to hold a ceremony anywhere does open up opportunities for smaller and other types of venues so it will reduce the incomes of the traditional licensed venues in future.
4. Opening up to other types of celebrant would allow more 2pm slots but this may then dilute the market and reduce incomes for all – doing one ceremony a day rather than 4. This assumes there would be more ceremonies rather than the same decreasing amount but spread over the different types. We do not believe it will lead to a large increase in business but maybe more requests for a bespoke location, popular date and time and therefore it will just spread the work meaning less opportunity

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current system works but needs simplifying and costs to be clear and cover all costs of provision.

We need to cover the costs of the service and a better way to do this – if we are expected to issue/amend and then input schedules for all/chase/deal with any issues these costs need to be covered.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If more people are able to be a celebrant it is likely to reduce LA incomes and this may then not be a viable offering or a reduced one for many smaller authorities therefore it dilutes the market.

Having one person to officiate at a wedding will reduce marriage costs.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We are not sure current law impacts couples that much once the process is understood. Any removal of steps/or simpler processes across the whole of the UK would assist all of the above.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

One system for all will aid understanding and offer more choice of venue.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. The local authority costs for any online checks/2 part process/face to face appointments/re-issue or update and issue/registration or other time be covered in costs that may be recouped.
2. No change - hotels and wedding venues may lose income
3. No change - but follow same process as civil
4. No change - most bodies charge a fee to be licensed
5. Simpler process maybe and wider choice of content/venue for those that want this

As different areas have different pay and cost basis this is hard to cover fairly.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVV-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-28 12:16:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Brethren

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

I am responding as an Authorised Person for marriages

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No reason

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

n/a

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Since the start of COVID-19, I have conducted two marriages. In both cases, it was clear that the unusual circumstances of the pandemic put the couple and their families under unnecessary strain. I believe that, had they been able to hold the ceremony in the bride's home, much of this pressure could have been avoided.

I would also like to speak on behalf of Christian couples who follow the teaching of Ephesians 5:31 and do not cohabit before marriage. Such couples also deeply respect the 'solemn and binding nature' of the marriage ceremony, and this is reflected in the simplicity of their preparations not detracting from this.

On a third occasion, a wedding has had to be postponed due to restrictions imposed for the second lockdown. In this instance, the bride – a British citizen who had emigrated with her family to New Zealand a few years ago – had returned to the UK long in advance of the wedding to fulfil the legal notice requirements.

The aforementioned legal process was not completed until two days after the commencement of the second lockdown, and now the wedding will have to be rescheduled. Until the marriage can proceed, the bride will be separated from her family by several thousand miles, relying on friends for accommodation, and without a source of income.

Their decision to maintain their Christian principles in the face of such trying circumstances and not resort to cohabitation is clear evidence of the strength of their faith, but this situation would have been avoided if

a) The bride had been permitted to give notice from her home in New Zealand, or

b) The notice period and issuing of certificates had been shorter and simpler, or

c) Lockdown restrictions on marriages could have been more lenient (I am certain that the ceremony could be conducted with lesser risk than a visit to the supermarket by implementing restrictions on attendance, social distancing measures and the use of masks and sanitising gel)

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can find no record of why this was introduced in the first place and no benefit in continuing it.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be more practical

##### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I think that three days should be sufficient. If the interviewer is satisfied that the applicants are genuine, what advantage would there be in further delay?

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think this is a sound suggestion. COVID-19 has opened our eyes to the potential of video platforms such as Zoom, not only to prevent the spread of infection but also to reduce unnecessary travel.

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree

##### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes them more accessible to the general public.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This allows for delays due to factors beyond the couple's control e.g. coronavirus lockdown.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree. It would be unfair on a couple for their marriage to be postponed at the last minute because there is not such a provision.

Please share your views below:

I think that a substitute officiant should be allowed to act if the couple specifically request this, and if the substitute officiant is agreeable to the request.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I am not an Anglican I don't feel that I should be giving my opinion on this

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I am not an Anglican I don't feel that I should be giving my opinion on this

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As I am not an Anglican I don't feel that I should be giving my opinion on this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

As I am not an Anglican I don't feel that I should be giving my opinion on this

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As I am not an Anglican I don't feel that I should be giving my opinion on this

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

As I am not an Anglican I don't feel that I should be giving my opinion on this

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I also suggest that while the officiant would often be the Authorised Person for the venue, the couple should be free to choose any Authorised Person as officiant.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that the relevant governing authority of the organisation should be responsible for nominating officiants, both in the current situation where it is the building that is registered and also in the event of this changing to the officiant being registered. The organisation must be able to sure that it is represented appropriately by its choice of officiant.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a matter for the organisation, not for another outside body or person

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I cautiously agree with this. There certainly needs to be a provision to exclude organisations that are detrimental to general public safety and morality, but I would also want to be sure that the definition of 'contrary to public policy or morality' cannot be used to unfairly exclude religious organisations with genuinely held Christian beliefs that can be upheld by Scripture, even if these do not always reflect the opinions of the general public.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Records should be kept and the GRO is the most suitable body to do this

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The choice, and the onus of its responsibility, should belong to the organisation.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This could potentially create a financial barrier to marriage.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comments

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is obvious.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think guidance is acceptable but this should not become mandatory or restrictive.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation should be responsible for all decisions regarding officiants

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no further comments

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If notice is made freely available online prior to the wedding, there is no reason for open doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In principle, I agree with this proposal, which reflects the existing provisions in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

There are many advantages, including:

- using a location that carries some significance for the couple – for example, in the bride's childhood home
- providing an alternative location if the original location is unavailable due to other events, building works or government restrictions on gathering at public venues (such as during COVID-19)
- creating a more relaxed and private ambience for the ceremony and any following activities such as refreshments and photography

I would not be in favour of allowing weddings to take place at a location or under circumstances that would detract from the dignity of the ceremony or the significance and solemnity of the vows being made.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

I would not be in favour of allowing weddings to take place at a location or under circumstances that would detract from the dignity of the ceremony or the significance and solemnity of the vows being made.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the officiant should give due consideration to any suggestions made by the couple but should make the ultimate decision.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, but with caution regarding the aspect of safety. I do not think that the officiant should fill the role of a health and safety consultant and be expected to carry out a formal risk assessment or be held liable if any injury or worse should occur during the wedding.

The final responsibility for the safety of the location should rest on the persons who arrange the venue (for example the couple or the family). If the location is a private dwelling, this should be the homeowner. For any other location, those arranging the wedding should discuss this with the owners of the location.

I completely agree that the officiant should be able to satisfy themselves that the location maintains the dignity of the occasion.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that guidelines would be helpful, providing they are only advisory and not enforceable.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that this is a good idea, but I would personally prefer to see all details entered before the ceremony begins. Filling out all the paperwork while the wedding attendees are present is stressful for the officiant.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will potentially simplify the process and aid persons who have difficulty in attending an office to register during normal opening hours.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are all necessary checks and balances

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no further comment

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no further comment

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a matter of law, not presumption.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be able to implicitly trust in the status, knowledge and conduct of an officiant.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no additional comments

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter



Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Couples have been prevented or discouraged from getting married by cumbersome, outdated processes. This is particularly apparent if the circumstances are slightly unusual, for example, if one of the persons is living overseas. Exceptional circumstances such as the current COVID-19 crisis further exacerbate this situation.

The cost of wedding arrangements is also a barrier to some couples getting legally married. Allowing marriages to be conducted in the home would enable couples to choose a simpler and less expensive ceremony.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As I mentioned earlier a simple, low-key marriage in the home would bring significant savings to the couple and family as there would be no costs of hiring a venue, employing a catering company, etc.

There would also be savings for the organisation, who wouldn't have to open up and provide heating/lighting/air conditioning to a registered building for a short ceremony.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have researched the subject of residence requirement and while there is plenty of confirmation that it exists, I have been unable to find out the reason for its existence. I can only conclude that this has long since been lost in the mists of time and bears no relevance to marriage today. Global travel and communications now increase the likelihood of relationships developing between persons from different countries, but our current marriage laws hinder them from entering into a legal marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We could make significant improvements to this situation by allowing couples to apply for marriage online, abolishing the archaic residence requirement and either eradicating or reducing the length of the current 28-day notice period. This would mean that the process could begin in advance of any overseas travel so that the wedding could go ahead as soon as the couple were present.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not wish to comment on this matter

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The only additional costs I can foresee for government and local authorities are those associated with registering and handling returns from a potentially larger number of officiants rather than the limited number of registered buildings. They will not incur additional costs relating to inspecting and approving venues if the onus of this falls on officiants.

Organisations are likely to see a reduction in costs as they will no longer be required to make a registered building available for wedding ceremonies or pay the additional costs of power, heat and lighting during ceremonies.

Officiants are likely to experience increased costs if they have to travel greater distances to proposed venues and visit these venues twice, firstly to assess them for suitability and secondly to perform the ceremony.

As I mentioned earlier, couples will potentially save money by being able to choose their venue. Their costs will of course increase if they decide on a more elaborate location, but this will be entirely their choice.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDV9-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-28 16:10:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We established our business as Civil celebrants in 2019 having invested several thousand pounds in NOCN Level 3 training, we have several wedding ceremonies booked with us which should have taken place this year but all have had to be postponed due to the pandemic, which has impacted hugely on our plans for the business.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think this is a reasonable approach

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes - it should be made relatively easy for couples to change their officiant - weddings are often booked a couple of years in advance and relationships with officiants can change, officiants business may fail or personal circumstances may change. If a couple wish/need to change their officiant for any reason they should be able to do this by giving notice to the registrars office

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are many people who fall outside the compass of recognised religious or humanist belief systems and there will also inevitably be couples whose own views differ in this regard. Therefore in order to meet this significant need it would be sensible to follow the lead of other Nations and enable independent officiants to deliver a legal and meaningful ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that anyone who is recognised as an officiant by the registrar General meets the same standards (or equivalent) in terms of mandatory training and CPD etc - there should not be different standards set for officiants of different backgrounds or beliefs - any officiant has to be able to deliver their duties in respect of performing a legally binding marriage regardless of beliefs

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would make sense to change the role of the Registration Service in relation to weddings from one of delivering to one of monitoring officiants and ensuring standards are maintained in much the same way that Environmental Health Officers ensure public safety through their monitoring, guidance etc

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a reasonable standard that ALL officiants should be expected to uphold - not just Independent Officiants

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many couples do not have a belief system which they feel is represented by any organised religion but do wish to include a religious element - for example a hymn, prayer, piece of music or a reading. This is often requested in order to ensure other family members are fully engaged with the ceremony and is of great importance to some couples.

Please share your views below:

There should not be any restrictions imposed on this other than the reasonable statement that the ceremony should be identifiable as a civil ceremony

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Weddings should be permitted in any venue which the couples choose providing the officiant is satisfied there is no undue or unreasonable risk of harm by virtue of the location to themselves or anyone attending the wedding

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be the same rigour around ensuring capacity to take part in a legally binding wedding service etc - timing of notice may need to be reviewed or exceptions allowed in these circumstances

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should still be named to ensure standards are maintained and that couples/unauthorised officiants do not use this as a loop hole

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The same time limit should be enforced - couples can scan their schedule and send electronically/by registered post etc if they have no other reasonable way of submitting the schedule

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable - as Registrars are currently also able to perform civil weddings in external, approved venues it would seem reasonable that independent officiants will also be able to deliver civil weddings in a registrar office if a couple wish that and nominate them as their approved officiant - appropriate fees for the hire of the register office should be charged as in any venue hired by a couple for the purposes of a wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The ability to be married in a private home must inevitably ensure a saving in costs for couples wanting to get married and encourage greater numbers of couples to have a legal wedding.

As Civil Celebrants we are often asked to preform ceremonies for couples in their own home or in other venues that are not approved for legal weddings - for example outdoor sites - as it is the setting and personal nature of the ceremony and the commitment which is important - however we believe that many of these couples would extend the ceremony to a legal wedding within the same setting and with the same degree of personalisation if this were possible.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

inevitably, once the current monopoly is broken, the former monopolists will not be able to charge the premium they have hitherto been able to. However, smaller venues, pubs, community centres, cafes etc will be able to enter this market and the increase in competition must inevitably bring prices down and facilitate a wider sharing of the market gains and greater public satisfaction as they have greater choice.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDV7-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-28 19:30:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

PBCC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Choose a State

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As an Authorised Person for a building (Brethren's Meeting Hall), I know of many persons within both the immediate congregation I meet with and throughout the UK, who have not been able to get married during COVID-19.

This has been very stressful and distressing for them and their families; it has prevented them from marrying and starting their planned life together. There were also several couples I know, who had to have their marriages solemnised in a very hurried and stressful manner to beat the deadlines for incoming restrictions, which would have prevented the marriage from taking place.

I conducted a marriage ceremony during the COVID-19 restrictions, within the prevailing government limitations imposed on numbers present, etc. Both the couple and their families wanted the law to allow for a simpler ceremony held in a house, to provide a safe environment with minimal risk of infection.

There is also a lot that could be done to make the preliminaries to marriage much simpler for the couple.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This current requirement makes it difficult for persons coming from outside England or Wales to get married.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes it easier for persons coming to England or Wales to get married.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This proposal makes good sense.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this proposal.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Please share your views below:

Yes, this proposal makes sense, if the couple getting married request it.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At present, it the Trustees of the registered building that nominate Authorised Person(s).

If there was a move away from a system based on registered buildings, then it would be good for the governing authority of the organisation that uses the buildings, or the trustees of those buildings to nominate the officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Members of our Christian church have sincerely held beliefs on marriage and the sanctity of marriage. Persons from our community would not live together prior to marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It would be right to exclude organisations that engage in or promote unlawful or criminal activities and practices.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our Christian church organisation does not charge for services, so this proposal makes sense.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no requirement for open doors where ceremonies are performed in a private house. Adequate checks at the preliminary stage should take away the need for open doors at any venue.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I believe it would be advantageous that weddings should be able to take place in private houses.

It would provide a very meaningful setting for the family; it would allow for the dignity and solemnity of the occasion to be enjoyed without distractions; the occasion can be more relaxed when performed in simplicity in the family setting; it would have helped during COVID

Allowing weddings to take place anywhere would help in situations where new church buildings have not yet been registered or there are no appointed celebrants available to attend.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree provided the officiant is sensitive to the desires of the couple as to where they wish to be married.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this - the safety of all at the wedding location is of prime importance and nothing should distract from the dignity of the occasion either.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree provided the guidance is not too detailed or prescriptive in regard to private homes being used for a marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but it would be far better to have these details added before the ceremony.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I would welcome your proposals as the current law has prevented several couples that I know of from being able to get married during COVID restrictions. Current law also makes overseas marriages difficult. Any proposals that increase the number of legally married couples is a good thing.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriage in private houses would reduce costs for the couple. It would also save an organisation the cost of opening and running a venue for a marriage ceremony - many such organisations are entirely funded by donations from their members.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Under the current law, it is problematic for persons travelling from overseas to get married in England and Wales. To help, the residence requirement could be abolished;  
the notice period could be abolished or reduced from the current 28 days; and the preliminaries could be done online.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The requirement for overseas residents to be at an address in England or Wales for a fixed period of time prior to marriage means them taking time away from their work or occupation and paying for accommodation. There is an obvious benefit to them not having this disruption or cost.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Marriage in private houses would reduce costs for the couple. It would also save an organisation the cost of opening and running a venue for a marriage ceremony - many such organisations are entirely funded by donations from their members.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDSG-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-28 21:12:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Independent Celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicable

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All wedding celebrations booked from March 2020 to end 2020 were postponed to 2021 or beyond.

Conducted one intimate service with 30 guests in September 2020.

Scheduled October wedding celebration cancelled due to only 15 guests - reverted to simple registration service ceremony at licensed premise instead.... full celebration with renewal of vows to be arranged Oct 21.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Advances in information technology & increased mobility of the population makes requirement antiquated and barrier to wishes of couple.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical.

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

If simple straight forward couple from within England & Wales ... three days should be plenty. Efficient systems should be able to check accuracy / history of applicants from passport / national insurance/ from initial electronic application and be subject to confirmation at personal visit. Could should leave in person interview with licence/ authority to marry.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed. Straight forward couples ... social media would suffice. Checks / balances require any suspect arrangements may require face to face investigation. With advances in IT ... tablet & phones ... able to record digital finger prints for ID / security purposes ... not unreasonable to have this option available.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes agreed. Providing confirmation data is readily available to England & Wales authorities. Eg Passport , military ID, NI .. or equivalent.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Far more relevant to modern society ... in reality who reads published notices displayed in RO ... an archaic system long replaced by information technology.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

12 months provides provision for element of control. Reapplication necessary if not fulfilled.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes ... there will be rare occasions when such action is necessary ... and unfair on clients to spoil such an important & special day. Obviously replacement officiant should be duly authorised, insured etc.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No longer relevant / necessary with modern technology.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Now irrelevant.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Logical. Option for couple to have traditional banns or equivalent read / published in other parties parish if it's important or relevant to their own values / beliefs / wishes.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes and yes if wished in traditional way. Yet retain option of obtaining a 'license' direct from RO or new authority to streamline the system and standardise record keeping.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Not particularly relevant in modern society. Majority of couples are already living together before marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It would centralise all the various options under one central system .. and streamline the church process... cleric acts on authority of licence issued by RO.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical requirement to ensure credit ability & integrity of system.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical & economic

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed - subject to suitable training included in training programs.. not just by default.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sound concept but majority of independent officiants are just that. Independent! So an independent agent eg Registrar system will need to be all encompassing to prevent exclusion or bias. Many independents are members of professional associations / training organisations but there are many operating without such associations or even training. There is currently no statutory regulatory body representing of said independent celebrants / officiants ... although perhaps some seek to speak for the industry eg 'Wedding Celebrants Commission' or 'Association of Independent Celebrants'.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists UK only represent a very small proportion of active working celebrants / officiants within England & Wales ..... and it is acknowledged they have extensive financial support and supporters at high level in government . Any such definition should not exclude any other group of professionals providing high quality bespoke ceremonies for clients.

Please share your views below:

There are many Independent officiants that provide non-religious ceremonies through personal choice in accordance with their personal beliefs and life styles. Equally there are many fully independent officiants who will include elements of religious, spiritual, faith , rituals or belief systems reflecting the wishes of the couple. This is increasingly so with the growing variety of cross - cultural relationships. There is a middle ground of semi religious 'organisations' that seem to get squeezed out due to the propensity to classify organisations - either 'religious' or 'non-religious'. Humanists UK now permit 'religious' elements providing their officiants does not engage in 'an act of worship'. Many traditional Humanists will not still not permit religious elements likewise many independents will also not permit any religious elements!

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But consideration needs to be given to professional 'independent' celebrants who may not be members of an organisation or community body eg self employed.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed .. would undermine sanctity of marriage.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where appropriate and relevant. Again allowances need to be made for unattached 'independents' celebrants or 'officiants'.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very important ....100%!

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But still needs to be a centrally administered standard registration eg GRO. Not all organisations / associations have the means or access to vouch for the character / integrity of individuals. Most existing bodies are linked to commercial training providers and frequently suitability as a celebrant is based on ability / willingness to pay training or membership fees.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sound in principle but many 'officiants' .. make their professional living by writing & conducting bespoke celebrations ... even the church makes money from holding wedding celebrations!

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed .... for majority outside registration service .. no conflict.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical .. even essential.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only in relation to matters of legal registration & related terminology to be included.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Debatable ..... despite claims by some bodies - most celebrant associations do not have a formal discipline system in place or aptitude to supervise / punish members. Ideally needs to be a neutral authority eg Registration service or some future celebrants licensing authority.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In absence of an independent celebrants / officiants statutory licensing body!

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above 38.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Open ended registration could lead to inaccuracies and ultimately poor standards ... if a celebrant only conducts one ceremony in several years.

Perhaps renewal every three years .... rather than annual registration.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum standards of CPD required eg 8 hours per year & requirement to register / update individual development record. Responsibility on individual to update own record on central records data base ... access via password protected application. Facility to upload Training Certificate / CPD certificate.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perfect!

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reflecting wishes of couple as a right.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples deserve to recognise their own wishes / beliefs or none / traditions as they wish.  
This will be reflected in personal choice of celebrant by clients.

Please share your views below:

Should be left to discretion of couple - prayers / readings / poems / music relevant to couples wishes & beliefs. Should not be directed by the faith / beliefs of celebrant or officiant. One should expect that if the officiant is uncomfortable with such inclusion- a true professional would decline the booking / commitment.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Situation shouldn't arise if change implemented.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With loosening of location restrictions - would be impractical to allow 'general public' attendance in private locations like private gardens / residences etc.  
Totally impractical to police.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential

Please share your views below:

Should be No limit on location - providing due attention to health & safety / risk assessments.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential if genuine choice of location is to be allowed.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Totally irrelevant restrictions if couples are to have freedom of choice.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important if freedom of choice is to be honoured.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense for both celebrant & couple and of course guests / staff.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed ... necessary but to be tinged with common sense ... a simple structured standard 'risk assessment' form for each location/ceremony which will become a routine part of initial briefing process and filed for future reference in case of investigation / complaints or insurance claims.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical and reasonable for many existing licensed premises.

Please share your views below:

If requirement for registered premises ceases ... will need to fall to the celebrant to ensure compliance. Celebrant would normally work in harmony with venues.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logically both to ensure personal choice / tradition.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Long overdue .... logical that government departments system should be able to communicate / cross check data ... National Insurance no, NHS number, HMRC references, driving licence, passport office etc etc. Long overdue national ID card .... but that's another subject.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Option 4 ... may be controversial with some sections of the community / church authorities!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An authorised 'certifying' witness ie the celebrant should be sufficient in most cases. One other independent witness present may provide additional reassurance / robustness in system.



May need some compulsion to formally register marriage ie the officiant as part of legal duties.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unnecessary requirement.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Overdue.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Archaic.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not aware of particular challenges here. Special arrangements can be made .. subject to flexibility re special licences.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some form of formal notice needs to be given for recording purposes .. allowing for modern technology should not be a problem. An effective online or virtual application process should negate need to personal interview.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical ... cut beaurocracy and time wasting .

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly supported in view of experience of current pandemic and gross inefficiencies of registration service in some areas.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Logical

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provides flexibility for a wide range of circumstances .

.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Overdue ...

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes over due in comparison to present international law favouring & recognised by overseas authorities - when ships masters operating within this districts / registration area.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes ... Should be open ended depending on wishes of clients ... subject to health and safety considerations in each event. Would include private yachts, ferries, fishing vessels, RNLI lifeboats etc etc. Why restrict ..... unlikely to be a huge demand but requirements would remain with licensed officiants to ensure compliance with marriage law.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Re identifying vessel ..... less likely to change than name of officiant .

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to both ... but would wish to ensure the inclusion of appointing an independent celebrant - not connected / employed by the ship - chosen by clients. Restriction of personal choice.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only fair.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See 72. Restrictive practice.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Probably yes .... most cruise lines offer a civil ceremony only inline with civil registration authority appertaining to the licensing body. le civil ceremony only in accordance with laid down words depending on port of ships yregistration.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Still need a time limit otherwise records will never be accurate. Use of satellite and personal IT around the world should make formal confirmation relatively easily. Emphasis will remain with the officiant who is unlikely to be unable to confirm marriage took place ... even if clients on world cruise lasting many months!

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if actual need for face t. Virtual meetings have become the norm in current pandemic . Real need for face to face meetings is dwindling especially if joined up government slow cross checking of various data bases.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Virtual interview & Electronic notice avoids such need to travel.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

On a cost only basis ... not funding stream for local or national governments.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely on cost recovery basis only .. no income stream.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once registrar has done an assessment at a 'regular' venue that should stand unless there are any major structural changes ..... suggests reintroduction of 'licensed premise' status again by local authority. Independent officiants not connected with venue will be expected to undertake an initial risk assessment for each contract as the norm. Back to repeat funding stream for local authorities!

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Academic as most registrars operate in their own local area and travel is currently included in charges for registrar( s)to attend the ceremony venue. No additional fee required.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again on cost recovery basis only ... not as imposed funding stream for local authorities. Any such charges to be openly advertised along with terms & conditions appertaining to these 'additional' services!

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair & logical provided on cost recovery basis only.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Cost recovery basis but discretion ie no fee if circumstances dictate eg low income, universal credit or other benefits.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An expected requirement common in most countries. Definitely reflecting cost recovery basis but allowing for costs re administering / dealing with complaints / removal of authorisation including potential litigation. If fees are set to low it will encourage many potentially frivolous applications just because they can or want to do a one off event for a friend or relative (popular in USA) .... likewise to high it will penalise some very competent and professional celebrants who may not perform many ceremonies a year.

There will be many celebrants who will not seek 'authorisation' who are content with concentrating on non wedding business.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Not aware of current law actually discouraging or preventing couples getting married if they wish to do so .... frustration for many couples is not being able to marry as / how they would wish to do so ... or having to pay twice over for the privilege - even if statutory registration and then ceremony of their choice & location.

Proposals would certainly encourage couples to have the type / style / location for their bespoke celebrations.

Existing inflexible arrangements do keep relatively tight control on accuracy of national marriage records.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Civil & CofE services are expensive and clearly a method of income generation. Registration service claims millions each year from both provision of attendance at licensed venues yet also take income from licensed venues for a three year license. Venues then charge for venue use in addition. Client pay three times for same service! Church fees are set at national level for marriage across England although fees go to local and area church authorities.

If clients want a personal service / location for bespoke service - they then have to pay again for legal registration - before or after - even if basic statutory

ceremony.

Existing arrangements are discriminatory, expensive & restrictive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My local authority only provides one central location in county for statutory marriage registration services - [REDACTED] - between 0930 & 1030 on a Monday morning. Any other locations / times will incur additional charges! Stat ceremonies should be available across registrars premises during routine office hours for those who want this type of registration.

Removal of outmoded controls / restrictions would enable more personal unfettered choice for couples. Removal of licensed premises fee should reduce costs the venue passes on to clients. Removal of requirement for premise to be licensed and impose license on celebrants will open up personal opportunities to all.

Removal or requirement for two separate ceremonies will save money for both couple and the local authority. Couples who still wish to be legally married & celebrate their wedding on same day at same location .. are effectively paying three times for their ceremony ... registrars, celebrant & venue ceremony room hire costs.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The costs imposed on venues c £1700 I believe for a three year period brings with it specific restrictions that can be manipulated by some registration services to retain their control over whether or not the venues retain said licence. There is hearsay evidence of some RO insisting independents may not be present or take part in same ceremony at same venue or discouraging venues from using independents. Removal of licensing of venues would remove & prevent these unfair practices. Venues would then be able to work with the client to deliver the celebration of their dreams.

The opening up of the celebrants market to open & fair competition with celebrants being licensed .. would remove the reliance on marriages being conducted at the convenience and availability of the registrar rather than the wishes of the clients. Existing marriage registration appears to evolve around the registration service rather than wishes or preferences of those paying the bill for those services.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Greater flexibility for both venue and client. Win win.

Registration staff would be released for statutory registration at register offices in short term.

Allowing licensed religious officiants to operate 'anywhere' - would open up options for all couples especially cross cultural couples.

I anticipate the open market would encourage more weddings to take place at unlicensed or previously unsuitable venues to be licensed ... previously excluding by default .. those who wanted legal ceremony at same / time location.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There will be a financial impact on income levels for local authorities ... fees earned far exceed the cost recovery of running the local registration service. Following downsizing of registration staffing last decade ... many officiants are employed part time - particularly at weekends to cover ceremonies (the Gig economy) (a number of p/t staff are also

independent celebrants in own right as well although some counties frown on option)

In parallel many register offices have closed / been sold off or with much reduced hours for registration of births, deaths and marriages. Removal of licensed premises admin / inspection / collecting fees would release staff to concentrate on registration duties.

Administration of licensing / monitoring of independent celebrants across the industry would provide replacement employment .....alongside fees from issuing of marriage 'licenses' and then formal entry on national register / issue of marriage certificates would still need staffing / management.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See 88 above.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Current law is very restrictive on overseas visitors in England and Wales.

Overseas visitors frequently run in to issues of having to be in UK for minimum of two weeks before can legally marry here ... placing couples under additional pressure to extend their visit/ stay. I have lost clients from overseas who were disappointed with the registration service requirements in order for them to marry here.

Couples travelling overseas invariably have to rely on the requirements in the jurisdiction of the country they visit. I am aware of couples who have had stat registration here before or after they travel ... and have an independent celebrant in the county of their choose. Some overseas ceremonies in certain countries are still not recognised in law in England and Wales.

There must be future scope to have an internationally recognised marriage license that could be honoured/ auctioned in any recognised country by a licensed officiant and then returned to country of issue for registration.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See 89 above.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Current requirements do restrict options in UK waters. Many ships are registered in British dependencies not just for tax purposes but to enable masters to marry couples as 'licensed' registrars of that dependency ... frequently following terminology & declarations recognised from a UK ceremony!

Selling point for many cruise lines for those who wish to avail themselves of such a ceremony. Normal registration ceremony fees apply as if held in port / country where ship is registered . licensed celebrant - normally ships master or first officer receives ceremony fee and cruise line receives inflated income from wedding package ... wedding planner, ceremony, cake, Champaign, canapés minimum number of guests, photographer / album. On one cruise - experienced 4 weddings in one afternoon (witness at one) .... same venue ... x £1000's a time ! Clients who want this romantic option will continue to take it.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Changes would open up the local market for maritime weddings and enable couples to consider this option without having to pay for a cruise to the Caribbean !

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Central government little impact - duty of Registrar General to maintain registers anyway.

Potential loss for local authorities of inflated fees for provision of licensed venues & fees from attending such venues to officiate / register marriage.

Would introduce open competition to an unfairly restrictive and anti competitive wedding industry.

Couples wishing for religious services will continue to do so but will need to allow greater personalisation of services. Some established clerics irrespective of faith will find this challenging. Likewise those organisation of a non religious bodies may need to be more flexible in allowing religious elements / traditions / cross cultural aspects to be included for those clients who wish to do so. This will not be acceptable for all members!

Independent celebrants - who wish to do so - will gain status & responsibility but quite rightly will be expected to pay a license / registration fee and undergo compulsory preparation / CPD training to receive and probably remain said registration.

Couples will gain greater freedom of choice yet potentially save on costs with need for only one bespoke ceremony. Couples will need to accept they will no longer receive the traditional official marriage certificate on the day of marriage ... but wait for it to be registered and then issued in due course. No great difference in principle to not registering births or deaths on day they occur!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVP-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-28 22:07:47

### About you

What is your name?

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am happy for my information to be shared

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Couples yes, where a partner dies and they have no security or rights as a spouse.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely. True lack of personalisation in the ceremonies conduction under the current marriage law that do not reflect the couple.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Yes!

Terminally ill partners unable to marry anywhere other than licensed venue by licensed registrar, especially where time is limited

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

More flexibility

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Again allows more flexibility

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely - the pandemic has proven that many legal registrations, such as death, can happen online, so why not giving notice?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely!

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Unsure

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A simple prayer, a reading that has spiritual connotations etc

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Location should be responsible

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Yes - flexibility and accessibility!

Terminally ill/housebound persons should be able to marry where they are receiving care - whether at home, hospice or hospital.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I lack information on this subject so unsure

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes I would think so

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current law results in a very arduous process to get married and perhaps discourages people. The flexibility and inclusivity of the proposals will not only allow diversity to flourish and be acknowledged, but also potentially result in an easier process.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In my experience, costing transparency needs improving - often takes a few phone calls!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Far easier process and freedom of choice!

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Current law is terribly stringent with little to no flexibility, and registrars are unable to meet the demand for couples who wish to marry

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

More affordable



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMK-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-29 11:37:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not want any of my personal view and convictions to bring any discredit on [REDACTED] way of life

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am [REDACTED] and we have had 3 weddings affected by the lockdown restrictions, so I witnessed the intense stress placed upon the couples by the delay - as devout Christians, we fully uphold the sanctity of marriage, as clearly set out in the Bible (Ephesians Ch5 verse 31) - so this meant the couples were unable to proceed until restrictions were lifted and could not start their life together, as they had been planning to and living for - this could have been avoided if there was a simple effective online process to register and secure the required certificates and if the ceremony could have been simply carried out in the house.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is outdated due to modern communication & travel - it is unnecessary

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is outdated due to modern communication & travel - it is an unnecessarily time-consuming process currently

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

why would they need to be longer...as long as the process & its requirements are clear...if any further requirements are flagged up in the interview 3 days is adequate time for this to be resolved

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

yes, this is definitely a good idea - fully agree with this

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes, this is definitely a good idea - fully agree with this

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes, this would be a sensible way of proceeding with this facility now available

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this seems a sensible period

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe we have always had 2 officiants registered to ensure there is no potential delay or issue if one officiant is delayed or detained for any reason

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as above - it is a sensible step to take to remove or reduce the risk of disappointment & dealy to the couples life plans

Please share your views below:

yes, this should be possible if the couple requests it and the officiant is free to do this

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a to myself so cant comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

n/a to myself so can't comment

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a to myself so can't comment

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if the officiant would be the current Authorised Person...This fits in well with how we currently proceed - and the couple getting married should be able to choose their officiant from their church if applicable

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense...the way we currently operate is that the authorised person is nominated by the trustees of the registered building who are acting on behalf of the congregation.

So if we move away from a buildings based system to an officiant based system then it would be good for the governing authority of that organisation to nominate the officiants and this could still be the trustees of the registered building or other more centralised entity.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Please share your views below:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense to me - it is very important that it is fully possible for the full sanctity of marriage to be upheld.

In our community, we do have sincerely held beliefs as to marriage, so couples would never live together prior to marriage - this needs to be recognised and allowed for in a simple legal process to allow couples to uphold this Christian scriptural principle.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I would agree that some organisations should be excluded such as those who may promote unlawful or criminal practices.

However, organisations that have genuinely held Christian beliefs that are contrary to public policy (such as same-sex marriage) should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential for public legal records

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense, in our community this would not apply however as we have never and would never charge for the service

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am assuming that this means no limit on how long an officiant is authorised... not how long it takes for an officiant to be authorised!

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Please share your views below:

n/a I can't comment as this does not affect me

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in my opinion, this would be unnecessary

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would fully support the repeal of the requirement for a wedding to take place with open doors....this is outdated and a suitable process of checking impediments prior to the wedding would eliminate the need to have open doors.

Ceremonies performed in the house should not require the private dwelling to have open doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that wedding ceremonies should not be limited to a registered building and would welcome the provision for weddings to take place in the home...however the importance & dignity of the ceremony needs to be upheld so would not personally approve of some of the locations that have been suggested

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

As above, I would welcome the proposal that weddings should be able to take place in private homes as is already possible in Scotland & NI, and many other parts of the world.

This would have certainly been very welcome in our recent experience during the lockdown due to Covid19 and also avoided the problems we recently had with weddings taking place during a delay with the transfer of the registration of a new church building

I believe that many would find it meaningful to have their wedding in their own home, it would take unnecessary pressure off the couple meaning that the dignity and solemnity of the occasion can be fully experienced without other distractions.

Having the ceremony in the home would also facilitate any food/ drink that may be had after the ceremony and the taking of photos for a lifetime memory of the important occasion

There may be other restricted circumstances such as illness etc where this would help

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - this does not affect me so I can't comment

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - this does not affect me so I can't comment

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree providing the officiant is sensitive to the couples' desire as to where they are married.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal.....it is important that the full dignity and importance of the ceremony is fully upheld and there is no risk or inconvenience that would distract from the marriage occasion

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable as long as it doesn't become over-prescriptive with regards to weddings taking place in houses.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - this does not affect me so I can't comment

Please share your views below:

N/a - this does not affect me so I can't comment

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes, this is necessary for suitable legal records ...however, it would be helpful if these details could be added before the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - this does not affect me so I cant comment

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as per my prvious comments, this makes a lot of sense now this provision is available

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - this does not affect me so I cant comment

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - this does not affect me so I cant comment



Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have never experienced any situation with this

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - I have no experience of this so don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

makes common sense to operate like this

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - I have no experience of this so don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - I have no experience of this so don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - I have no experience of this so don't feel qualified to comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - I have no experience of this so don't feel qualified to comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a - I have no experience of this so don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this would not affect me so I don't feel qualified to comment

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

From what I have seen I believe that the proposals being made are a very positive move forward to facilitate couples getting married - whilst it will not change the number of marriages in the community I am in, as we do not believe in living together before marriage... anything done by the government to

facilities the institution of marriage being upheld generally is welcomed and I fully support.

From my own personal experience seeing the stress and pressure on couples that have been unable to get married because of Covid19 The changes proposed meaning this could have been avoided.....so it would definitely be welcome

I have also been involved in some overseas marriages and seen the challenges the current system imposes with registering the marriage etc so simplifying and rationalising the process is overdue and welcomed.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In my opinion, anything that is done to make legal marriage more available to all by reducing cost can only be positive.....as I have heard from many that the cost of getting married is certainly a barrier to a lot of people outside of the community I represent as an approved person.

For ourselves having the wedding ceremony take place in the home will certainly save costs in a number of ways - our registered halls are generally large and cost a lot of money to open up and power etc besides all the extra travelling etc required.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

as above

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I don't have enough experience of this to be able to comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

as above

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't have enough experience of this to be able to comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't have enough experience of this to be able to comment

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As referred to in my previous answers, I have seen first hand the impact of the current laws on persons travelling from overseas to England to get married.....now it is possible for things to be simply done online, the preliminaries should be done like this.  
The residence requirement should be changed/abolished along with the 28 day notice period.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

as above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience in this so can't comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience in this so can't comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

For ourselves making it possible for the wedding ceremony to take place in the home will certainly save costs in a number of ways - our registred halls are generally large and cost a lot of money to open up and power etc besides all the extra travelling etc required.

Also for the families involved using the home for this rather than arranging catering etc at a registred building will definitely save a lot of costs and unnecessary stress

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDV3-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-29 16:16:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

United Kingdom Society of Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not married

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not married

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Most of them postponed.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes no sense.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If concerns were raised, yes a follow up in person interview would be advisable.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Why would it be  
necessary anywhere else?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Meet and greet is necessary to confirm who you are.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Church wedding is a Religious Ceremony. Keep it as it is.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Maybe a hymn or song with Religious Connotations

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local Authority

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Both

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

All Types

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have not heard of Religious ceremonies being requested at sea

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD6Y-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law

Submitted on 2020-11-29 22:42:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I went through a standard civil ceremony in a lovely Register Office.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:



Not applicable, our ceremony was just what we wanted.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a registrar, I have conducted and registered weddings in the last two months. I am glad that people at least have the option to have a wedding but it does sadden me that face masks and hand sanitisers have had to be part of their big day. However, I and my colleagues have worked tirelessly to ensure the weddings are as meaningful and positive as possible.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This may seem arbitrary but in order for couples to apply to give notice of marriage, there has to be at least a small chance that someone may know if there is a legal reason they shouldn't be married - this is more or less impossible if the couple or one party has been living abroad.

#### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is very difficult as there are heightened requirements for any wedding involving a non-EU citizen to try and prevent sham weddings.

Also, the information provided by people in the notice interviews gives us chance to ensure the couple know each other and that this is a voluntary union. People also are more likely to enter inaccuracies or incorrect information - this would make the first notices invalid and involve whole new notices being completed at extra cost to the couple.

The notice interview also gives the couple chance to meet a 'real live' registrar and ask any big questions they may have. We also sometimes need to question the couple on more complicated situations, changes of name, previous marriages, foreign divorces etc.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least 2 weeks is a reasonable amount of time if both parties are healthy and well. This period used to be 16 calendar days but was extended to give the authorities more time to investigate potential sham weddings. Three or seven days would not be enough time to do this and it seems unfair that one group of people would be expected to wait longer than others.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

We need to see original documents and sometimes request further documents to be presented. I do not see how this would be possible to do remotely. Also, how would we be able to tell if we should be concerned about a forced marriage or sham marriage if we are speaking online - how would we know that this interview is being conducted privately?

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

These circumstances are usually rare but it feels reasonable to have some flexibility regarding people for whom a normal office appointment would be very difficult.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure how this would work, we alter some details to protect members of law enforcement or armed forces. It may create more situations where people try to interfere with a legal ceremony despite there being no lawful reason the wedding should not take place.

It may however, if done carefully, provide a modern alternative to the strange situation of peoples' notices sometimes being displayed 40 miles away

from their home.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why this shouldn't continue to work.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Simply not possible. Officiants swap shifts and have family emergencies or are sick at the last minute just as much as professionals in any other field. The idea of having to print paperwork for each ceremony specifying one member of staff that must be there for the ceremony to take place is just not logistically possible and would lead to absolute nightmares on busy ceremony days.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why complicate matters by having any named celebrants????

Please share your views below:

I believe there are already regulations detailing how to deputise a member of the wedding party to conduct the ceremony should one of the two registrars not be able to attend the wedding.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why the banns shouldn't be valid if they are in the district the couple live.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The rules regarding war damage are obviously of an era that is hopefully over so I don't know if there are any other situations where this would still be relevant.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As previously stated, I believe the logic dictates that the banns should be read or published in the area the couple live - this increases the, already quite slim, chances that someone may be aware of a legal reason the couple shouldn't be married.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The question's meaning is a little unclear but I see no reason why clergy members shouldn't be able to play their part in reducing the risk of sham weddings, forced weddings or unlawful weddings.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I believe this gives us a vital chance to ensure the risks of sham or forced weddings are as low as they can be.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

Some British citizens still have a strong religious faith and whether we agree with that or not, it is still the official religion of our country and I don't see why people should have extra paperwork and expense added to their religious ceremony.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it is far safer and more efficient to have two officiants at all legal ceremonies, but these responsibilities are already an important part of our role and an understood duty.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Smaller churches quite often do not have the capacity to hold their own marriage registers so Registrars are sometimes the logical solution to this situation. We can record the details correctly and for all time, in a register that will be maintained and archived properly, making the record easier to find in years to come.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This places the officiant at much higher risk in a sometimes volatile situation. It also means that there is no 'safety net' for colleagues supporting each other to ensure all legal requirements are met. The register should be completed during or immediately after the ceremony and this is very difficult, or impossible, for the conducting registrar to do in addition to their existing role, especially on busy ceremony days. Sometimes, on quiet days or in the absence of available staff, the registrars also have to act as ushers to ensure safe crowd control and the management of both parties arrivals. In emergency situations such as health emergencies, having two registration officers is extremely useful.

I personally would really have to think carefully about whether I would be willing to continue in this role if I was expected to work completely alone.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is more to do with where the register is held, people should have some training and support in this role rather than it being an automatic add on.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, training on the accurate recording of ceremonies and the legal requirements regarding giving notice and ensuring legal ceremonies should be an important part of making this possible.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know how open to abuse this proposal would be...there have been numerous official surveys on peoples' belief systems where Jedi appears in serious numbers. This could leave the system open to farce and mockery.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is again very open to potential abuse.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No-one who is involved in any organisation that is promoting unlawful or immoral values or behaviour should be entrusted with the legally powerful role of assisting in lawful unions.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Again, not everyone is capable of doing this role, some religious or non-religious groups leaders or officials may not be the best people to conduct loving lawful ceremonies. Sometimes their beliefs are in direct contradiction of our laws regarding wedding or civil partnership ceremonies.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We already attempt to keep a list such as this, though it is very difficult to do so accurately.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The traceability of officiants is essential, the link with the register office engenders a respect of the accuracy of the information recorded and ensures ease in contacting the officiant after the fact should there be a mistake or an omission of any data. Entrusting a ceremony to an independent officiant would mean entrusting them with a register....this could be a massive security risk. If the register wasn't present at the ceremony this would be fraught with difficulties also. How would the register office know that the legal requirements has been met and the information is accurate.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is already the situation and I see no practical way to check the capacity of all outside officiants.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I simply do not believe that people not linked to a register office should be able to conduct a wedding entered into a civil or religious marriage register.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Terrible idea.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How on earth would this be checked???

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think independent officials should be able to conduct legally binding ceremonies without the presence of a registrar.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This question is unclear, time limit on what? How long they are licenced? How long they have to have worked in that field?

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel this would be difficult to manage.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has been a longstanding verbal contract, simple and easily understood by all. I do not think the wheel needs to be reinvented, the consenting 'I do' part of the ceremony is part of the tradition and sometimes is the most recognisable part of the ceremony, especially for parties or guests who don't have English as their first language. The question regarding impediments is there for a reason; so that people knowingly marrying illegally have stated in public, with witnesses that there are no legal reasons they should be married.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There has to be some way of regulating the conditions under which couples are allowed to perform a legal ceremony and under which registrars and celebrants would be expected to conduct said ceremony. It cannot be expected that each couple's choice potentially might have to be assessed on a case by case basis. Life simply doesn't work in this way. Celebrants need to work in a safe and suitable environment. This is a serious, supposedly lifelong commitment to another person and it should happen somewhere befitting that or it could be open to mockery and trifling situations.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No special rules but imposing their own requirements sounds contradictory and confusing. A lot of these are based on ceremonies that have come about over many years, is it really necessary to make all of these change?

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this would muddy the waters slightly, registrars and celebrants may not be religious themselves and would this not seem slightly hypocritical? Also, historically, it was the religious organisations that objected to civil ceremonies being allowed to include religious content, I do not see why they would feel any differently now to then.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This question is very poorly written, but I do not see why couples should not be able to have a religious service following a short civil ceremony as this seems to cover all bases and meets the couples' requirements.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a reason behind this, like many of the other conditions that have been in place since 1837. This whole proposal process seems to be throwing the baby out with the bathwater. If someone has a legal objection to a marriage taking place, they must be allowed to voice that objection. Also, we are inundated with late guests that the couple still want to be included in the ceremony, why block this access?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of the occasion, the weather conditions, common sense and the safety of all concerned does require a certain limitation on 'anywhere'. Conducting health and safety reviews on every single requested location does seem unrealistic.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

I think outdoors can be done in certain circumstances, safely and with provision for weather conditions. On water, in the air and in private homes all have serious risks associated and all would add to the time the ceremony would involve to travel to and conduct so would unfairly limit who could conduct these events and who could have one.

The risk assessments, travel arrangements and costs involved would suggest that these options could reasonably be avoided without discriminating against individual choice.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The advantages of having these locations as venues for weddings is that they are set up for large groups, they are practiced in fire safety procedures, have appropriate rooms to accommodate individual private interviews, preparation for the celebrants and can assist in the ushering of various parties, musical cues etc. It is a known variable in a sometimes very testing situation for registrars and celebrants. It is also easier from a planning point of view.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the religious or non-religious groups feel that this is appropriate I have no issue with it.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is not feasible in a registrar's office scenario, many celebrants are part time and would feel great pressure to agree to a potentially unsafe venue to avoid losing out on work and therefore puts an unfair disadvantage on them. It would also encourage a 'every man for themselves' culture amongst potentially independent celebrants. There must be some structure where a recognised, responsible body can give a framework for this to work.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants have enough responsibilities for their already meagre salary. This level of responsibility cannot be expected to be upheld by one person alone.

No

Please expand on your answer:

How would this system be policed? How would people's interpretations on this guidance be managed? How would this not result in a competitive cheapening of the importance of this occasion? If officiants are effectively self-employed, someone would always be desperate enough for work to agree to nonsense.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This again seems overly complicated and only replicates part of the existing system.

Please share your views below:

Not applicable.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A simple amendment to the existing marriage registers to include mothers / other parents' names and occupations would surely tick all these boxes.

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This again seems overly complicated, how do you ensure that the guests will understand, the witnesses will understand, that an officiant would always be available with the relevant language skills....

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Every district up and down the UK has technology issues, week in and week out. The existing system went down for over 2 weeks, leaving absolute chaos in its wake. I wouldn't trust the system to be reliable enough for perpetuity. Records still exist in a legible, accessible and reliable format from almost 200 years ago. No electronic system has been anywhere near that reliable in any known office. A physical record, backed up by an electronic system to make retrieval of data easier surely is the best solution for all.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This again seems like overcomplicating the existing system with no benefits...

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that it would be helpful to have some flexibility in the marriage authorities accuracy to avoid marriages having to be postponed over small non-essential typos etc.

But witnesses are there for a reason, they can create an extra level of security and reassurance that this is a legal ceremony, and not open to fraud. The signing of the schedule or 'making a mark' again confirms who was there, it gives a real personal connection to marriages conducted generations ago, it also forms part of people's understanding that this is a legally binding contract.

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This question makes little sense, why would these things not result in the officiant refusing to go ahead?

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What?? As far as I am aware there is already no requirement for couples to co-habit? Many live apart because of work etc...

No

Please expand on your answer:

This already is not the case. Co-habiting partners are not allowed to be recorded as husband or wife on death certificates if not legally married to the deceased. Common law wives or husbands do not exist in law.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Abolished and replaced with what? An unlimited amount of time? A shorter amount of time? This point is unclear.

Consultation Question 61:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is just one example of why officiants should not be operating independently of registration services.... It is a potential can of worms for misleading and defrauding people.



## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I feel that there will always be a need for so-called 'deathbed' weddings and anything that can be reasonably done to make this and similar situations straightforward whilst still avoiding opportunities for malicious misuse would be supported by all.

### Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is so dependent on the circumstances; if the diagnosis is that the person will be alive and able to take part in a marriage in hours, days, weeks or months.... The existing system is compassionate and responsible and officiants bend over backwards to give everyone what they want, whenever they can.

### Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This can put extra pressure on local authorities but I would support anything reasonable that would speed and aid the process.

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why a change of circumstances should result in invalid marriage authorities.

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel this is massively open to abuse, apart from extending documents beyond a national emergency.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, massively open to abuse, some medical evidence has to be required surely?

### Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason in a time of peace why this is necessary it adds so many extra complications for no real advantage...

### Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The maintenance of records, the availability of correctly trained officiants, the upkeep of common standards and the potential risks here seem to outweigh any advantage.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, please see above.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is so open to fraud and abuse it is just not worth the risks...

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The maintenance of accurate records and adherence to the laws regarding marriages should not be seen as simply another duty added on to someone's main job as crew on a ship. This is so open to the watering down of rules and regs with no real ability to check up on this.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This just seems to be overly complicated with no real advantage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, overly complicated with no real plus points.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I see no reason in a time of peace for this to be required.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, massively open to abuse, how would this be policed, who would check up on this, who would be responsible for checking - by district? Far too complicated.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unfairly prohibitive.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Any fees should be compassionately set.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above, all fees should be compassionately set.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who decides what is reasonable here and what is discriminatively expensive...?

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why is this any better to the existing system??

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This doesn't take into account travel expenses, what affect this will have on staff rota's - yet more complications as to how many weddings can be carried out over a shift and how long needs to be left between ceremonies.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This question is very poorly worded but any fees charged by authorities regarding weddings should be reasonable and based on cost recovery with a small area for potential profit to help support other sections of councils.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees currently are much lower for housebound than for approved premises such as hotels and grand venues and that is how it should stay.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

I feel some fee is reasonable but it should be as low as humanly possible.

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with the principal of independent, self employed officiants conducting legal ceremonies.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think, professionally or personally, that the current law discourages couples from getting married. I have been married in this country, it was all organised in under 6 months and we were able to invite over a hundred people to the actual ceremony and still only incur costs of about £370 for the

ceremony part of the day. This is less than many spend on their dress. The simple ceremony is available to those who want or are financially limited to it and this is quite inexpensive in the grand scheme of things. The cost of certificates is now extortionate though.

I do not feel any of the new proposals add much, the ability to have a legal ceremony outdoors in a suitable venue is maybe the only plus point I can see.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Approved premises are expensive but they are optional. Most people have access to a reasonable registration office however.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None really.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I feel most registration offices have a good relationship with approved premises, both being as flexible as they can to make it work.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I do feel quality, accuracy and responsible officiating is massively at risk in these new proposals with no real advantage.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current laws seem to work most of the time.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None I can see.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't see any obvious impact.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People can already choose which district to have a civil ceremony in. I see no massive advantage.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see no real effect.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see no real advantage that outweighs the potential risks.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

All of this seems a desperate attempt to scrap everything and replace it with more complicated and less reliable guidelines.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVD-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-30 14:21:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

UKSOC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a church 1983

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Celebrants were not easily available and getting married could only happen in church or at a registry office. These venues do not allow for unique celebrations and actively stifled personal expression.

There were limited and ignored my desire to marry in a beautiful room in a family home.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

3 friends have cancelled weddings as they could not have the number of guests needed. 2 of them would have liked to be married quietly at home and celebrate later but registry offices were shut and personal celebrants do not have the legal right to declare a marriage.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This time allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding.

This will allow any other person to state if this is not a legal marriage and prevent fake weddings.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

This reduced time allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding. The short time creates a safer time buffer to prevent others standing in for couples and prevents illegal immigration opportunities.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All interviews should be face-to-face to prevent of screen coercion and ensure the identity as far as possible of the true participants.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice should be given in Scotland and Northern Ireland too as part of the UK. This allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding.

This will allow any other person to state if this is not a legal marriage and prevent fake weddings.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding.

This will allow any other person to state if this is not a legal marriage and prevent fake weddings.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many weddings are cancelled at short notice for personal reasons and rearrangements can begin when ready and this formality would already be done.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not if 12 months is allowed. Celebrants may be booked and then unable to perform the ceremony as planned so need to seek another celebrant.

Naming a substitute means that person is booked and cannot be booked by someone else but may have to turn couples away whilst not actually be used on the day.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer.

Please share your views below:

Yes. They are trained and qualified to work in all capacities a 'legal' celebrant would be involved with.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There are no banns in Scotland. They are not necessary for a wedding in England.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If banns are made public using social media then there will be no issue with this.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be made public in Council Websites and other forms of social media as they will reach more people and as many people do not want to marry in a church, it is irrelevant to many couples. It is also offensive to many couples who have no faith.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, This allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding.

This will allow any other person to state if this is not a legal marriage and prevent faked weddings.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. This allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding.

This will allow any other person to state if this is not a legal marriage and prevent faked weddings.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This would cover all faiths and beliefs and non-faith couples. This allows for checks to be made to ensure that both parties are legally able to marry and both willing to do so - no one is coerced or participating in a sham wedding.  
This will allow any other person to state if this is not a legal marriage and prevent faked weddings.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A fully trained wedding celebrant should be able to legally perform this role.

### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A fully trained wedding celebrant should be able to legally perform this role.

### Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary as a fully trained wedding celebrant should be able to legally perform this role.

### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is in addition to a fully trained wedding celebrant who should be able to legally perform this role. Both should not be required at the ceremony - one or the other.

### Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be allowed to choose their own officiant and a fully trained wedding celebrant should be able to legally perform this role.

### Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be discriminatory against couples who have no belief in any system or form of formal teaching.

Please share your views below:

This would allow couples with beliefs or no beliefs to choose who, when and where they are to be married. The lists would be of qualified officiants - clergy or qualified celebrants.

### Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow couples with beliefs or no beliefs to choose who, when and where they are to be married. The lists would be of qualified officiants - clergy or qualified celebrants.

### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:



Yes. To allow non-religious belief organisations from nominating officiants if the organisation promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality goes against the grain of humanity regardless of faith.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would prevent rogue 'celebrants' conducting sham weddings and forces weddings and keep vulnerable individuals safe.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would prevent rogue 'celebrants' conducting sham weddings and forces weddings.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fully trained celebrants should only be allowed to conduct ceremonies.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fully trained celebrants should only be allowed to conduct ceremonies.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a legal and binding state no matter what words are used and the importance of this situation should be treated lightly.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants have many views. Couples often seek a celebrant because they want a particular activity at their wedding or particular slant on the ceremony. Some want a religious angle but can't express their individualism in a church setting. Others want no religious part at all. Either aspect of the ceremonies performed can be performed by a celebrant.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this should not stifle the individuality that make couples seek the support of a celebrant in the first place.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Some couples want a blessing or prayer as part of their ceremony and this is acceptable to many celebrants.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This will not be necessary if celebrants are legally able to perform weddings. If couples wish an additional religious element that should remain their option.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In a church they should remain public but elsewhere they should be private.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All should be allowed as legal places as it should be the person conducting the ceremony that makes it legal and not the venue.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only religious ceremonies should take place in religious venues as a mark of respect to the faith.

However, couples may want to incorporate aspects of their faith into their ceremonies as well as unique elements that a faith may not allow in a faith building. If two different faiths are marrying then a non religious venue allows for a mixed style of ceremony.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The usual H&S guidelines should abide.

Please share your views below:

The venue should provide a risk assessment form as many places already do.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These elements are what make it a legal so should not be dismissed.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a legal ceremony has not taken place, the couple are not married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Prisoners should not be allowed to marry.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Training must be in place and a recognised qualification required to preform a legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Prisoners who will be in gaol for longer than the 12 month period should not be granted a schedule.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Remote activities are open to abuse. Couples, especially females, are vulnerable to coercion and marriage against their will. Immigration situations will be compromised and sham weddings will flourish.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only for National Emergencies.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only for National Emergencies.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Pleasure cruisers, Armed forces vessels

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

At the discretion of the couples concerned.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This should be at the discretion of the celebrant.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As previously stated - the venue should complete a H&S form and have correct insurance documentation on display.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants should be legally allowed to preform wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants should be legally allowed to preform wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants should be legally allowed to preform wedding ceremonies and set their own fees.

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples can contact celebrants in any way they choose because Celebrants should be legally allowed to preform wedding ceremonies.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Many couples do not get married legally because they do not want the formal constraints that local authorities and the law puts on them. Same sex couples are deterred by the difficulties they face from local authorities. Celebrants should be legally allowed to preform wedding ceremonies as we can deliver exactly what people want in venues of their choice. These are often more meaningful ceremonies that draw all members of the families together.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is stifling and costly. Couples who I marry have to marry at a registry office before my ceremony. This increases costs and takes more time. My couples want to marry in places that are very personal to them and their life experiences and are often not allowed to. As faith declines the desire to marry in a church where individualism is crushed becomes less attractive. Those who do want a religious element want to write their own prayers as these are more meaningful and come from the heart. I have conducted a wedding of mixed faiths. The couple concerned were not permitted to marry in their own religious venues. The ceremony we wrote together combined their values and principles. These met with elders agreement and although not a legally binding ceremony - was a beautiful, meaningful and extremely personal.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples will have the choice and freedom to completely express their love for each other in a place of their choosing with time and costs reduced. Ceremonies include special activities that promote family unity and serve to bring everyone together as they are written with the wishes of everyone in mind.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The cost and time implications speak for themselves. Time is an issue. If the registered venue is booked then couples have to look elsewhere and this comes back to getting married at a venue that is meaningful to couples. Business that have facilities for weddings or a desire to hold weddings are prohibited from doing so.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

If celebrants are legally allowed to conduct ceremonies in any safe venue then the business opportunity made available to the whole of society are endless. Not waiting for Government pre-approval or the availability of registration officers for civil weddings will result in increased numbers of weddings and an increase in business for a variety of venues.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples are tied to venues times and registrars availability and this causes unnecessary angst.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Changes in the law would open up some amazing buildings within our local authority to be used as wedding venues. This would bring a new lease of life to some buildings. The Registrars office is often overwhelmed with work and this would release some of that pressure.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This is causing some issues as some authorities do not accept cross border paper work - despite being the UK. In England some areas still demand banns to be read in Scotland and this has not been necessary since the 1970s

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

residents of England and Wales travelling to other jurisdictions to get married - would allow couples to marry in areas that are meaningful to them. This would increase business in some areas as they would become popular areas for weddings to happen.

residents of overseas jurisdictions travelling to England and Wales to get married - as before but caution would be needed in order to prevent immigration issues.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples would be able to be married by a celebrant of their choice conducting a ceremony of their writing.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Government and local authorities - there would be a loss in revenue of officiating at weddings but there will be an increase in the availability of good venues for ceremonies

businesses - the hospitality industry would be able to develop further and specialise accordingly to provide bespoke occasions.

religious (and non-religious belief) organisations - both organisations already make their requirements clear. There will be a reduction in money made by the church as less people will marry in a church.

independent officiants; and / or couples - if celebrant ceremonies are legalised there will be an increase in weddings. These will give couples the weddings they really desire.

The cost to couples will give better value for money as the package they are purchasing covers all legalities. Couples would prefer celebrants to be able to perform a legal ceremony.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVY-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-30 16:24:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Institute of Professional Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As an organisation representing celebrants who cannot legally marry couples in the UK at present we have many members who have to navigate their couples through the process of having a legally recognised ceremony, usually the minimum statutory ceremony at their local Register Office, before having the ceremony of their choice with their celebrant. This creates a sense of confusion amongst the guests and couple.

As an example:

My wife and I had a celebrant led wedding ceremony on August [REDACTED] This ceremony was held in our garden with about 30 guests. It represented who we are, our beliefs (not within a recognised religious or atheist system) and values. The following day we went to our local Register Office and had the 2+2 ceremony. It had taken me several attempts to get the Register Office to agree to the minimum ceremony and not "upsell" us to something bigger. They did not want to give us the option.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In my personal example I had explained to my wife and our witnesses that the ceremony on the 27th was not legally binding and in fact effectively had to be hidden from the registrar on the 28th so that they did not prevent us from having the legal marriage on that day.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so that we could have the deeply personal ceremony of our choice at the location of our choice and minimise expense.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Because we followed our ceremony with a legal marriage there are no consequences.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The current system makes the assumption that one is either happy to have a legal ceremony devoid of personalisation, or to have a religious ceremony. In either option the cost can be huge because licensed venues know they can charge.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a celebrant I have seen mine and all of my colleagues businesses decimated this year. We know of couples who have had to cancel and reschedule six or seven times as restrictions have changed.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will open up the possibility of destination weddings in the UK to overseas couples and UK couples greatly increasing the choice available.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Online makes so much more sense especially if this is then searchable. At present the assumption that a paper notice in a Register Office allows members of the public to object to potential problems (bigamy etc) is archaic.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Once the in-person interview has taken place there should be no need for delay.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An appropriate power to include. If in the future, it is needed then this power could kick in and really assist couples at that time. Yes, a face to face interview option is necessary where a sham or forced marriage was suspected.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

To stop these existing exceptions would restrict some couples and go against the proposals to make the process of marrying easier.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current system is out of date and inappropriate. Notices displayed in Register Offices are hardly looked at. A far more suitable and accessible system would be online.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) The officiant should be named so that it can be clarified that they are authorised.
- 2) Yes definitely, a revised schedule detailing the new officiant should be provided in cases where a couple changes their celebrant, but the system of doing this needs to be speedy and straightforward.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Other instances could include: Family emergency, death or illness of close family member, domestic crisis and there will be others. However existing celebrants mostly already operate with a circle of colleagues for just such emergency and unforeseen situations and are therefore likely to be able to locate a substitute authorised officiant in these cases.

#### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Disagree – Comment – The proposals seek to make the process easier so a wider view in making it possible to have banns read anywhere is preferred. Surely a unified system where banns (Anglican) and notices (everyone else) are posted on the same online system would make sense and have the best possibility of exposing fraud.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

- 1) Disagree – Comment – This would be extremely difficult to implement as infrastructure lacking to carry out such checks. It would be extremely burdensome.
- 2) Disagree – Comment – This would seem to be against the aim of simplifying the process.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Surely the rules for Anglican wedding and other legal marriage should be similar. Whether the priest or a registrar does the interview the resources available and skill at interviewing should be the same.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Surely the rules for Anglican wedding and other legal marriage should be similar. Whether the priest or a registrar does the interview the resources available and skill at interviewing should be the same. It seems that the best way of achieving this is for the preliminaries to be performed by a suitably trained registrar.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It will be important that all authorised officiants are clear about how consent is given and that they have undergone the mandatory training on their rights and responsibilities. The resulting system would be far more straightforward than the existing.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

When considering 'overlap', there is an inevitable question about whether registration officers can also act as independent celebrants. This gives rise to many further questions. Could they legally be prevented from doing so? Should they not be permitted to operate outside their local authority employer's area? Should they be allowed to use their current or ex-registrar status to promote themselves as independent celebrants?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will provide cost saving for Local Authorities and couples as there is no need for two officiants.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but their status as an officiant of the Anglican church must therefore limit their venues to be those of the Anglican church

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And in both cases a public list should be made available so that couples can check that their chosen celebrant is nominated.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

'Secular' needs defining carefully.

The suggested definition is probably the best available at the present time, however there is a concern around a definition for organisations calling themselves 'non-religious belief' organisations. If the definition is too loose then numerous such organisations with dubious frameworks will spring up in order to be able to conduct legal marriages. If the definition is too tight then it will deter genuine organisations. HUK's membership of the National Secular Society (NSS) contradicts their professed position of being a non-religious belief organisation.

Please share your views below:

A list is very difficult to draw up and there will always be exceptions, the emphasis needs to be on criteria for becoming such an organisation.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

20 seems inexplicably low. In this case it is possible for a tiny group of people with extreme beliefs to start marrying people without sufficient oversight.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

There are different ways of seeing this. If they nominate by office held, the officiant is automatically 'off the list' as soon as they leave office. The burden on these organisations keeping very up to date lists in practice may be impossible, although probably better in theory.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasons include:

Gives couples a much-needed choice in who conducts their wedding ceremony.

Celebrants can include different cultural and faith elements in a ceremony that can be tailored to the couple's exact needs especially couples from mixed or non-standard belief backgrounds.

Numbers of celebrants are increasing as couples want this choice.

Celebrants having the ability to conduct legal marriage will attract more couples to get married, as they can have the ceremony they want.

Financially, celebrants are increasing in number so to allow them to conduct legal marriage will grow the sector still further, including attracting couples from overseas.

England and Wales is out of step (and far behind) other countries where independent celebrants have been successfully conducting legal marriages for years.

This would make the countries of the UK more similar in how marriages are conducted.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance on what is "fit and proper" is also needed

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The mandatory training provided by the Registrar General's Office will be very important. The Wedding Celebrancy Commission represents celebrants in England and Wales and offers any assistance to the Registrar General's Office in creating the mandatory training that will be required. 5 WCC Executive Council members train celebrants mainly in the UK but some across the English-speaking world.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to recognise that for many independent celebrants this is their primary income and so an artificial limit on fees would present a barrier to entry and restrict choice and quality. A properly functioning market in independent celebrants already exists.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Defining 'dignity' and 'solemnity' is difficult as it is viewed differently by individuals. However, this needs clarity and breaking it down into elements such as appropriate clothing, wording and actions may be helpful in defining the guidance on this. The Wedding Celebrancy Commission offers to help with information on what may be viewed as appropriate.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Wedding Celebrancy Commission offers to assist with information on potential additional elements of CPD.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The wording of this proposal should be updated to include independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This is a huge can of worms. Probably best not to give examples.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

For faith/belief groups they should maintain a register of pre-approved locations. For independent celebrants their authorising organisation should keep such a register. The Wedding Celebrancy Commission may keep an overarching register for all independent celebrants.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although I agree with what I understand this to mean I'm not sure I fully understand the intent of this statement.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is less useful than it might at first seem. Most cruise ships are registered under flags of convenience and not on the UK Ship Register. An alternative might be for the cruise ship owner to register their vessel as a registered marriage venue regardless of its flag. This would also potentially allow for airlines to register their aircraft as registered venues allowing for marriages to be undertaken in the sky as well as on water.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

ferries, yachts, cruisers, military vessels, aircraft.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the celebrant should be included. If it is important on UK soil then it is just as important in international waters.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps maritime officiants should belong to one of the UK celebrancy organisations under the Wedding Celebrancy Commission umbrella.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

But the paperwork can be transmitted electronically so perhaps the fixed timescale can remain.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1) The Wedding Celebrancy Commission believes that current law discourages couples from marrying. Civil marriage processes are currently bureaucratic, lengthy and complicated and couples don't always understand them. Register office access and appointments are often difficult for couples under the current system. Venue limitations means that couples cannot have their wedding in a location personal to them, such as their parent's home. A couple pays high fees in many cases to hire an approved venue or attend a register office for a statutory ceremony which is highly restricted. Costs have become far too high in approved venues for couples under current law so many will not in fact marry because of this. If a celebrant - led ceremony is required then couples also have to hold two events, usually on different days. The Wedding Celebrancy Commission has a vast amount of research and information about the difficulties couples experience with this system - couples really dislike this system and want just one event. Couples want more choice in the content and more personal content. They might want to reflect differing cultures, recognising their backgrounds and want the content to be totally personal and unique. Who can marry a couple is highly restricted under the current law. Couples cannot have an independent celebrant or a person from a non-religious belief organisation conduct their legal marriage. Therefore, they are less likely to marry at all. The current law is old and inappropriate in many areas and is out of step with marriage law in much of the rest of the world and our fellow UK Citizens in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

2) Undoubtedly lifting the current legal restrictions as per the proposals in this document will result in the effects listed in 1) above and more couples will choose to marry.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Discuss - All members of the Wedding Celebrancy Commission are in regular contact with practicing wedding celebrants and have numerous examples about how availability and costs of register office weddings affects couples. Stephanie Pywell's research into 2x2 weddings supports this.

It difficult to book a 2 x 2 marriage, and virtually impossible to find any details on many council websites. Couples really do have be very determined to get one of these ceremonies, which it is their legal right to have!

Very limited dates, times and locations are available in many areas and the practice of deregistering marriage rooms and, making them approved venues and charging high fees for their hire happens in many local authority areas.

2) Approved venues pay fees to be 'approved' and checked as a venue suitable for legal marriage. These additional costs are then passed on to couples and they have to have a certain number of weddings to justify these costs. So only larger and more expensive venues are usually 'approved premises', restricting choice for couples.

If couples choose a non-approved venue, they must hold two events to become legally married. Not a good choice for couples.

3) The costs of marrying in registered places of worship:  
This is really a matter for the various religious organisations as the costs incurred will vary enormously.

4) Couples can hold a ceremony that is not legal, such as a celebrant-led ceremony, in non-approved venues plus the register office 2 x 2 ceremony. This is costly but still could be cheaper for couples than having the whole event at a venue approved for legal marriage. The cost implications are currently a minefield for couples.

5) Forcing couples to have to have two events is more expensive for couples, travel costs etc. It is more difficult to arrange and decide who should attend. Couples do not like this system.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) Register office weddings will still be available under these proposals. Some couples will want the statutory only ceremony.

The removal of 'approved venues', means that the deregulated marriage rooms offered by local authorities will become more subject to market forces as these local authority owned ex-marriage rooms will have to compete in the wedding venue market as any other room for hire.

2) This will lead to large cost savings for couples. Many couples will choose a private home or outdoor location for their wedding.

3) Without the need to travel to have a separate legal ceremony or have registrars attend a venue just to do the legal formalities, couples will experience

large cost savings.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1) The current law is expensive for couples. Approved venues are expensive. The costs of venues are so high that it prevents couples going ahead with marriages.

2) Two registrars attending a wedding at a weekend is costly, but many couples believe they have no other choice. Registrar availability is limited, and dates need to be booked often years in advance to ensure a couple can have the time and date they require.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1) For venues to be able to host weddings without lengthy and complicated pre-approval processes is by far a preferred system for couples, for all venues and for the wedding industry as a whole. The flexibility this will provide is exactly what is needed. It will make currently unavailable locations freely available and open up choice for couples.

2) Registration officers should become more available to conduct weddings as there will only be one registrar required.

3) This will have a huge impact for couples and the wedding industry as a whole. In particular, independent celebrants work alongside couples in professional, creative and flexible ways, by allowing freedom of location, couples will truly be able to have the wedding that they want to have, where they want it, not that which is just what they can have under the current restrictions.

4) Undoubtedly the wedding industry, with venues alone thought to be worth currently £5 billion p.a. (upwards of 1/3 of the value of the £15 billion wedding industry per annum) will grow rapidly in terms of number of venues hosting weddings if these proposals are implemented.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law allows local authorities to charge high fees for hiring decommissioned marriage rooms and for registrars attending approved venues to conduct marriages. The income from approved venues will be less under these proposals.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Whilst fees from approved venues may be less, local authorities will be able to offer a less restricted service themselves. They will be able to conduct weddings in other locations including outdoors and be a more attractive choice to couples who may choose to use their service, without being compelled to do so. Additionally, there are other elements of these proposals, such as the organising of a pre-approved location listing where new income will be received.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) The current law continues to drive couples away from England and Wales to other countries to marry, not least Scotland. For all the reasons set out in this document, marrying here is not an easy process and does not give couples the choice they currently demand.

2) Current law in England and Wales is not inviting to couples. Being able to get married how they wish, in places they wish, is too restricted and the current residency laws put off a lot of couples.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) Freeing up who can conduct marriages, the locations they can be held and establishing simpler preliminaries will greatly reduce the number of couples travelling elsewhere to marry.

2) The attractiveness of England and Wales as a wedding destination under these proposals will escalate hugely. It will become easier to marry here and have the type of wedding required in any location.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently couples are prevented from being legally married on ships if they are in international waters. This reduces this market sector considerably and does not attract ships to be registered in the UK.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The effect on the maritime industry and ships being registered in the UK can only be positive in all respects if these proposals are implemented.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1) The Office of the Registrar General will incur administrative costs in setting up a system for authorising nominated officiants. However, fees charged should more than cover this and contribute to other much needed funding requirements.

Local authorities will save by only using one registrar to conduct a marriage and this will be more cost effective. They will lose the approved venue fees but will be able to charge for setting up the pre-authorised venues listing and have more opportunity to promote their wedding services in wider locations.

2) All businesses in the wedding industry will benefit from these proposals as they give greater flexibility of venue and will attract more couples from overseas to marry here. New businesses will also be encouraged to set up.

3) It is certainly the case that 'proper' non-religious belief organisations will benefit from these proposals as, if implemented, people with those views will be able to have the ceremony they wish.

4) Independent celebrants are a growing market sector of mainly self-employed small businesses. Conservatively estimated turnover on weddings of £46 million pa (3700 celebrants conducting 25 ceremonies p.a. @ £500 per). This will increase if these proposals are accepted. Celebrants who become authorised officiants will grow their businesses. Demand already exists from couples for celebrant-led ceremonies, reflecting how many there are now practicing. The volume of ceremonies conducted by celebrants will increase, again conservatively estimated as 40% in the first full year. This will improve the financial situation of hundreds of small businesses in England and Wales.

5) Couples undoubtedly benefit financially more than anyone if these proposals are implemented as couples would then be able to have the wedding they want with the person they want leading it and for a cost they THEY determine.

They will save money by not having to use approved venues, many will use private homes and outside locations and the cost saving will be huge for them in just location costs. They will not have to pay for two registrars to attend their ceremony or have two ceremonies at different locations. They will benefit hugely!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVX-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-11-30 17:59:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] - I am independent but also a member of UKSOC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am married. The ceremony was in a church with a registrar present for the legal documentation.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

At the time it was important to me to be married in reflection of my faith (Catholicism). Although I don't have this strong faith today if I was to get married I would want it to be personal and with someone that really knew my husband and myself so that they would be able to talk about us rather than the legal binding. Even the priest could do this!

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

They have been very limited and many have been cancelled. Although the ceremony has been similar, the atmosphere has not been the same due to the numbers and this has been an emotional challenge for the couple too.

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes no sense to me as it doesn't have any long term standing.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the modern world this seems more appropriate and flexible.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This seems reasonable for the couples and also the interviewer. It would also allow time for any queries raised to be addressed.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This seems reasonable, again with the developments in modern technology it would possibly make this process easier for couples and interviewers.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Perhaps if there were some legal concerns about the officiant the substitute could be given permission to act on the day?

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe the simpler the process the more people will be inclined to get married.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No as many people today do not attend one church for their life. Often people choose a church because of the setting!

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think the wording of a 'secular belief system' is off-putting as it suggests a set of beliefs, which secularism is not about. Secularism is about humanity, love, compassion and truth searching and then interpreting that individually, whilst also supporting one another.

It needs to be more inclusive:

An organisation that professes a secular belief that claims to explain humanity's nature and relationship to one another and the universe, and to encourage its adherents to live their lives in conformity with their understanding associated with their secular beliefs.

Please share your views below:

I would say things that have no substance or have only been established on a temporary basis.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important for the up keeping of the the institution of marriage that there is a level of training, education and accountability.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is fine in terms of the legal requirements, but it should not be limiting in terms of expression of beliefs, e.g. other elements and rituals the couple might wish to have in their ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Q37 & 38 need to be consistent with one another.

Either the General Register Office has the power to monitor and de-authorise

OR

the named organisation has this power.

There will need to be consistency in achieving and maintaining these standards.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Q37 & 38 need to be consistent with one another.

Either the General Register Office has the power to monitor and de-authorise

OR

the named organisation has this power.

There will need to be consistency in achieving and maintaining these standards.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In theory yes, although it would depend on the financial obligation on the officiant.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

marriage vows  
blessings/readings  
hymns

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe so.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

In accordance with the General Registry

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be done before the wedding so that the signatures are the final thing to be put on it. That way the couple check all is correct and it keeps its status as a legal document.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

perhaps the time scale for the preliminaries?

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In theory yes but the 'emergency' would need to be very clearly defined to avoid fraud etc.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure about this as I don't have enough experience of different vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't have enough experience to comment on this.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure about this because I thought the idea was that all weddings would now be civil weddings, but that they could take place in other venues and with independent celebrants? So i would be reluctant to keep civil weddings in register offices without that being opened up to approved independent officiants.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see how this is necessary. Once a venue has been approved it will be put on the list and that will be set. Most venues are known already.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, why are venues already known to host weddings being asked to pay to be put on a pre-approved list? We already know they host weddings and do a great job, so it would seem like they are being punished.

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In some ways I do as it would enable independent celebrants to be able to offer this service and be able to do the legal bits too (provided the government approve this). However, if we can all be open to offer the same service and work together then I wouldn't want to see a registration officer limited in this way.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would need to see the real monetary value of this before I gave a definite view.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

People are discouraged from marriage as they are often unaware of the choices that are out there if they don't want a religious service.

I would like to see, with the potential changes in law, a real push to the communities to show them the choices that are available.

In the weddings I have done the couple always say how they didn't even realise they could do their own things (independent celebrant) and they love the freedom and choices these ceremonies allow, in comparison to a registry office or with a registrar.

I believe that these new proposals will re-ignite marriage in England today.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Availability is very tight and restrictive.
2. Cost can be very high
3. Limiting if you are not truly religious but want a nice venue (as apposed to a registry office)
4. This impacts the legality of the service and then having to book a 'second' ceremony can seem tiresome.
5. Completely pointless!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The pressure should be relieved in terms of time.
2. Much more flexibility for couples and also potential venues.
3. Time, money and effort will be saved in being able to have all these sections completed at the same event (which is the one thing the couple want).

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no experience of this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Overall this will increase the capacity for venues to have weddings and give officiants more opportunity to give couples what they want.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I'm afraid I can't comment on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am unable to comment on this.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As said already the increase in flexibility in the modern world will be well received by many potential couples.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As said already the increase in flexibility in the modern world will be well received by many potential couples.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I cannot comment on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I cannot comment on this.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. More business opportunities should outweigh the initial cost in providing training to independent officiants.
2. Increase in weddings
3. Much the same (possible continued downward trend but this is to do with belief rather than marriage)
4. Increase in efficiency for the couple as they have the potential to re-train and do the legal side of the ceremony too.
5. More efficient service from their officiant and having everything completed by one person on the one day.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD96-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-01 16:47:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Carnival UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At present cruise ships are unable to conduct in port weddings in the UK for guests, which would open a new opportunity for guests to legally get married in another location. This is furthermore positive as guests that may not be travelling with the bride or groom could still witness the wedding and disembark afterwards.

However we understand that this would have to be conducted by a land based officiant, which would make this logistically a little more difficult. Would have a preference here for it to be able to be conducted by an officiant on board.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At present we have ships in the fleet we are unable to conduct weddings on due to the ships registration. Being able to conduct weddings would influence choice of registration and additionally open a huge amount of opportunity for our guests that which to marry on certain vessels.

Post discussion we would like all international waters to be considered, as to whether the ship can still conduct weddings being in all types of international waters regardless of the port of embarkation. We feel the registration of the ship should be the main consideration as opposed to the embarkation port, so long as guests meet legal and immigration requirements and have completed their pre-ceremony documentation and meeting with a UK registrar.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our guests will always have selected and booked a vessel of choice, therefore making this requirement one that is already met by us as the cruise line. The officiant is difficult to name due to unforeseen surrounding circumstances that may arise where a change in officiant happens before the wedding, therefore agree that the couple should not be required to give the name of the officiant.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The captain and deputy captain should be the only officers able to marry on board vessels and therefore the only ones to be authorised by the registrar general as maritime officiants. This should be limited for a) the guest experience and couples ceremony, having the captain conduct a ceremony is very special. B) Having all crew being able to conduct ceremonies logistically would not be best for the ships operation. Having the captain or their deputy conduct a ceremony keeps the ceremony very official and there should be a limited number of maritime officiants on board that are able to conduct these official legal processes. Additionally we would want to mitigate any ill practice that could occur.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Rules and regulation surrounding conducting weddings on board should be kept much the same as those on land to ensure rigor and that we don't introduce new complexities.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This again keeps in line with land based legislation and ensures only officiants can conduct weddings on board a vessel.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There is a demand for religious weddings, of which is very limited. We only get approached with this by a very small number of guests each year. To be able to conduct a religious ceremony would need further protocol and a process in place for this to take place and a religious officiant to come on board a vessel. Alternatively the majority of weddings on vessels are towards non-religious weddings.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVM-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-01 16:59:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

At all times identity and confirmation of such should be paramount.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Preliminaries should help rather than hinder a couple in the process of arranging a wedding

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

What purpose would be served to read Banns in another church ?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

In this respect the same rules should apply as in a civil ceremony

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registration service has held the monopoly over couples for too long and do not always represent the best value for money or provide the best service.

In a private sector the registration would probably be subject to the monopolies commission .

In keeping with many other countries - this section of the marriage must be open to others

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This gives the church dual purpose, where trained and qualified celebrants are not even on the first rung of this ladder

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the governing authority is the local authority/ register office - they have a conflict of interest in maintaining the status quo and therefore a lucrative income stream

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is another limitation against celebrants

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In keeping with many other countries throughout the world - The church of England and registration service should not hold the monopoly on conducting legal weddings

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be done by the General Register Office

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

CPD should be a GRO department.

Otherwise, as long as the officiant is complying with marriage law, the requirements of the title and conducting themselves in a fit and proper manner - that is the indication of a professional

CPD will be open to profiteering and therefore another conflict of interest

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any couple should be able to arrange their wedding day in a place of their choosing

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A couple should be able to marry in their home or garden if they wish

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The law should be made as easy as possible and with due consideration for the limited time parameters

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In these exceptional circumstances , could the healthy partner give notice for both parties?

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

During busy periods the registration office may not have the staff or time to make thiis a priority.

suggest this remains with GRO

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any vessel that permits the dignity of the procedures

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the local authority do not use this as an opportunity to inflate the cost to make a profit

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be cost recovery

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There has been an increase on couples marrying overseas in order to have a ceremony of their choice

There has also been an increase in demand for celebrants to conduct a wedding ceremony after having a short legal register office ceremony.

The registration service offers a premium cost ceremony, setting a fee but answerable to no body, for little more than a standard ceremony. The rise in the Celebrant numbers is testimony to the popularity and the preference for a personalised ceremony.

The Church of England and the registration have had a monopoly for too long which dictates the style of wedding a couple may want, but also is restricting business growth for celebrants.

An overhaul is long overdue. And the more choice and competition within the industry must mean any couple getting married has more to choose from

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In my local area the Registration service make is as difficult as they can for any couple to have a basic wedding EG; restricting the hours a basic ceremony is available. restricting numbers to the bride and groom two witnesses and conducting the ceremony in a working office.

However for an increased charge, more guests are permitted and a greater choice of room to have the ceremony in.

For many local authorities weddings are a lucrative income stream; one where they can charge what they like

Marrying approved premises invokes a higher fee depending on the day of the week and the time. The service given is rarely in proportion to the higher fee charged.

IN view of the rise in the popularity of celebrant led ceremonies some register offices also offer a celebrant led ceremony in alternative place of venue - giving the council two bites of the cherry.

I am a former registrar and I know what is offered by a local authority and many times they do not represent good value for money but more importantly - in a market this big - no one authority should hold this monopoly. It is time the registration ceremony were subject to standard competition that is part of all business. Competition drives the standard up and ensures the best for its customer/client/consumer

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See above comments

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Increased competition will mean they have to raise their standard of ceremony

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD9T-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-01 18:42:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My income from wedding celebrancy has collapsed. Bookings for early 2021 are now being cancelled and I am having to repay deposits taken last year.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People are much more mobile these days.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason for any minimum period at all.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote meetings serve the same purpose and will give people (and Registrars) more freedom/time.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible to give notice from outside England and Wales in this day and age.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, by advance arrangement.

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion about Anglican weddings



Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be treated equally and be preceded by civil preliminaries, in line with much of Europe.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD9U-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-01 19:19:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Kelly Chandler Consulting Ltd

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm all for the opening up of legal ceremony to independent celebrants who in my view conduct the most beautiful personal ceremonies.

I think it's important to ensure that the training of said officiants is thorough and meaningful. GRO would be the obvious choice to authorise but I trust you'd be working with celebrant bodies to establish the requirements of the celebrant that go beyond the basic legal/paperwork components?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the Registrar General would be focussed on the legal/paperwork aspects of a wedding based on what I know Registrars to do currently. I would expect that an approved officiant would have further training related to the more personal aspect of the ceremonies and their content they could conduct.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is of particular concern to some of my wedding venue clients who currently undertake this responsibility partially just by the nature of being the host location that holds the venue premises license for operating overall and simply because absolutely anything which happens in a place is always attributed to the place not, necessarily to independent suppliers coming in.

Example being in a different context: guest gets food poisoning, it's the venue who is blamed even if the caterer has been brought in by the couple.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With support from celebrant bodies.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Presumably though on a "permission-based" situation.

For example if a premise is private then a couple can't just show up with an officiant and claim that they can get married there.

Will there be exceptions such as "in front of Buckingham Palace" and the likes?

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I am absolutely in favour of allowing legal weddings in the outdoors in particular. This is so incredibly in demand by so many couples to marry in beautiful nature spots, with country house backdrops, in courtyards, in otherwise meaningful appropriate places which are currently not allowed.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do think this needs to be in consultation with the venue if a hired wedding venue. Any activity that happens on that site links back to that site whether approved by an officiant or not. And venues have very large responsibilities for health and safety which fall under their obligation for insurance and documentation currently.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very much in favour as venues could easily be overwhelmed by having to have 100 meetings with 100 different officiants for each wedding they have booked.

I have already been asked by venue clients of mine, if a venue has paid for a 3 year civil license and doesn't need to use it, will they get a partial refund since this will not be needed? A lot of venues have gone to huge costs to enable civil weddings at their venue particularly those who have build outdoor covered structures to fit the current law so clearly looking at a financial rebalance for these venues to ensure they are not out of pocket will be needed, especially after many of them will still be suffering from the brunt of the pandemic for years to come.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVR-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-01 19:47:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We had three adult children living at home with us during the first lockdown, all of which were engaged, and two of them had already booked their wedding dates.

The emotional distress as having their weddings cancelled was huge. We totally support your proposal to simplify marriages, to enable them to be conducted at home, which would have overcome all this heartache.

Also to simplify and speed up the pre-marriage process.

Thankfully all three of them managed to get married between July and September, but three weddings in three months was pretty full on!

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if for some good reason the couple requested it, and the substitute was happy to act.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Organisations should only be excluded if they promote unlawful or criminal practices.

Organisations that sincerely hold to Christian beliefs which are contrary to what has become public policy such as same sex marriages, should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided the setting does not in any way diminish the serious solemnity of the marriage contract.

Certainly, I am in favour of allowing marriages within homes or gardens. This would have overcome the inability to marry during the pandemic lockdown, which could happen again at any time. This therefore needs amending with urgency.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this must not preclude marrying in the home.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Or better still, scope to fill in these details ahead of the occasion.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

From our own family experience, I can say that these proposals would certainly have helped the marriages to go ahead.

We believe in couples not living together before marriage, and our family therefore had to wait patiently for lockdown to be lifted.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriages in the home could save couples a substantial amount of money, and enable them to tailor their expenditure to their budget.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

From the experience of friends whose daughters have married foreign bridegrooms, the present requirements are onerous. A reduction of the notice period and residence requirement would be welcome. As would the completion of preliminaries online.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

In order to promote more legal marriages, any reduction in administrative costs would be a help to financially pressed couples. Also, enabling marriages in homes has many desirable benefits, and could avoid the need for an expensive venue, if desired.

To give couples more say in how they wish to solemnise their marriage is desirable, provided that it upholds the the dignity and seriousness of the marriage bond to which they are committing themselves.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD9G-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-01 21:01:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

none

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Married in nikah as per Islam

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes agree

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be limit on the fees

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMZ-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-02 12:09:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a trainee celebrant w

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am divorced

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is fair that people register their intention to marry and this time frame is fair

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea to do it online or by post and interview later

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Surely this would depend on people's personal circumstances

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree that this could be done remotely and an in-person interview for cases as described above

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes - it should be possible

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure why the officiant needs to be named?

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep banns as they are

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not just in church

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think celebrants should be allowed to do this too.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

CivilceremoniesLtd

Independent celebrants

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An independent officiant would need to be paid

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants could also be nominated as above

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:



No

Please expand on your answer:

As a celebrant, the emphasis is on a personalised bespoke service

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the same way that other services are monitored

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local council

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on how long they have got left

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on individual case

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it needs to be done in person

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

An independent celebrant should be allowed to legally marry a couple in a civil ceremony.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMD-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-03 07:15:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Islam Uddin

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:  
Middlesex University

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::  
london

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED]

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

during the pandemic, whilst observing government restrictions of social distancing.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is unnecessary.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This could encourage couples to have a civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Once the interview is completed, couples should not be restricted to get married at their earliest convenience.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, seems a good idea and it could encourage couples to get a civil marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as long as a person is a UK national.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is up to the couples to announce publically.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

12months is a good period.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:



It is extra paperwork.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Indifferent.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Indifferent.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Indifferent.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Indifferent.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Indifferent.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Indifferent

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Indifferent

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Muslims do not have a governing body.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Indifferent.

Please share your views below:

Indifferent.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are many different types of Muslims, so which organisation would represent them.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No. But there needs to be an understanding that Muslims are not a homogeneous group.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, why not.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Organisations may have bias. Let the individual applicant explain for themselves.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 is Ok

3 - there should be guidelines. Training would deter applicants.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fees should cover time, expense and travel.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Indifferent

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not to give organisations power, as they may have bias.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Indifferent

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Gives more choice.

Please share your views below:

It should not be restricted.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Gives more choice.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

n/a

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

n/a

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD9J-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-03 08:56:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Brethren

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

Authorised Person

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are legally married.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Nothing comes to mind.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As an authorised person for marriage, I had persons wishing to get married yet frustrated as they were unable to due to the building registered on their licence being in an area of lockdown with marriages restricted. We tried to change the venue to an area that did permit marriages but had to wait 2 weeks for an appointment with the registrar, then a further 30 days for the licence, resulting in the planned marriage day being missed. This specific incident due to old rules caused unnecessary stress and prevented a couple from having their long-awaited happy marriage day.

A licence permitting marriage not relating to a specific building would be much simpler.

I also fail to understand the need to visit a registrar to book a wedding when this could all be done online as per passports etc.

The 30 days wait for a licence seems excessive and out of date in today's fast-paced society. I would have thought that 1 week was more reasonable, especially if they are being published online as set out in the 'weddings at a glance v4' document.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree it should be abolished as I fail to see what this achieves, especially with the current 30 day licence period.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree with this proposal.

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I see no benefit for the delay on this so would recommend keeping it as short as possible.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, a good idea to enable remote interviews as this would be a huge time-saver.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, fully agree with this proposal, especially with so much more remote and overseas work being quite normal.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I have no problem with this.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, definitely. A wedding is about the couple getting married and as long as they are in agreement then it shouldn't be held up due to an official person not being available.

Please share your views below:

If unavoidable delay includes when the officiant is unable to attend due to their spouse/close family member being ill then all good, otherwise I would think this needs including.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree that the officiant should be the Authorised Person and that the couple should be able to choose their church officiant.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I fully agree that the governing authority of the building or higher authority within the organisation should be responsible for the nomination of officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I have no problem with part 1 and wholeheartedly agree with part 2 as I hold with utmost sincerity the sanctity of marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I feel the law should exclude any organisation from officiating in weddings where they are engaged or proceeding with anything that's criminal or against the law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I have no problem with this.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, absolutely.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, guidance is always appreciated.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, most definitely.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I have no problem with this.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I have no problem with this.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, agree as I cant see how it would be needed.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I fully agree and feel that if marriages within homes are allowed then these also should not be subject to open doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the main yes as I agree marriages should be able to take place in a home, however, marriage is special and the dignity of this shouldn't be compromised by the location.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I feel very strongly that homes should be made available to couples getting married so the dignity of the wedding can be experienced without any unwanted distractions. It would also have enabled the marriage referred to in question 3 to have been able to take. Homes would also help provide an area for a couple who were not keen on either a large religious location or the registrar's office.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, agree with this along with the wishes of the couple.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, definitely needed to ensure all are kept safe.

Other

Please expand on your answer:



I do agree but would be against anything too rigid being put in place that could prevent a home marriage taking place.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would also be a help if it was possible to add these details prior to the marriage.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, fully agree.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I personally would welcome the government's proposals, especially as it would reduce limitations through time like covid.

I also believe that a simpler marriage system may well encourage couples to marry, rather than living together without being married, which I do not agree with.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost to use a large building for a wedding can be quite high for an organisation and with the current approved building system, it doesn't give many options to save costs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The opportunity to hold a wedding in a private home is one of the best ways I can think off to save costs.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently, the law around overseas marriages is quite restrictive and not always very workable for a couple. It would help if the 3 day notice period could be implemented along with being able to register online.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Any move that makes marriage simpler and inturn encourages couples to marry, rather than not, has to be a good thing.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

As already stated marriage in the homes would be an excellent way to save costs for not only the organisation but potentially the couple to.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD9Y-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-03 12:34:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Celebrants [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Unfortunately, all the weddings I was due to officiate as an Independent Celebrant have been either cancelled or moved to 2021 or 2022. It has been a terrible year. However there has been a major increase of potential clients wanting to use a celebrant rather than a registrar, because of the

personalisation we offer

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be great if couples had more freedom to choose where they wanted to register their intent to marry. There is no need in this day and age for them to be resident there for 7 days

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are seen in person at some point, then I don't see why they have to give notice in person initially.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

If they have been verified at an interview, then 3 days or less is enough

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is a very difficult subject as yes it would be a concern about forced marriages. I personally think there should be an in person interview each time and not online solely

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should continue

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Completely agree with this which would make it much easier for the couples to register intent in any district, but it be able to be checked

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will help with any unexpected disruptions where the wedding may be postponed especially after what has happened this year

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes I feel this should be required

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As Independent Celebrants have been trained specifically to a high standard to write bespoke ceremonies for their couples that are completely personalised, it would be wonderful if they could also be authorised.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a job with legal responsibility so therefore should be monitored

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Couples should have the choice to include a hymn reading or prayer in their civil ceremony

Please share your views below:

hymn, religious reading or prayer

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the couples choice for them to have their ceremony in a place that has a special meaning to them

Please share your views below:

I'd be happy to officiate weddings in all of the above

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this is a very outdated rule. A wedding should be able to take place anywhere

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However part of the training as a celebrant is to know how to perform risk assessments so are perfectly able to do that

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

yachts, speed boats,

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law does prevent some couples yes as they want everything made legal on the same day as their ceremony but may want their wedding completely outdoors in an unlicensed venue. This isn't possible right now.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Often couples want the personalisation of a ceremony that an Independent Celebrant or Humanist can provide, but will often feel they have to use a registrar in a authorised venue or register office to keep the cost down. it would cost more for them to have a celebrant and then have to have a register office ceremony to make it legal so they choose the cheaper option and miss out on what they really wanted

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The benefits to venues being able to host weddings officiated by religious officiants, and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations and independent officiants; are that they would be able to fit so many more weddings in their calendar as registrars aren't always available and with more Celebrants, they could possibly double their profit

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDKZ-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-03 12:55:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

OneSpirit Interfaith ministers in England and Wales may hold ceremonies for people who hold alternative beliefs e.g. Pagan, Humanist, undefined spiritual but not religious (SBNR). Some of these couples choose to also have a legal ceremony (held by a registrar) others see the importance of the symbolic ceremony but have no legal protection.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All our ministers in England and Wales who hold these ceremonies are clear with couples from the first contact that the marriage has no legal status.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An example of this would be one of our ministers, in their role as a legal marriage officiant in Scotland, has encountered a couple who were uncertain whether the marriage they had previously entered into was legal. This couple did not know whether they now needed a legal ceremony in the UK, or whether they needed formal divorce papers in order to re-marry.

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

In some UK countries (Scotland and Northern Ireland) our ministers can offer legal ceremonies that reflect and respect whatever beliefs are important to the individuals getting married.

In England and Wales couples who have alternative beliefs (e.g. Pagan, Humanist or other spiritual paths) or those where the individuals in the marriage hold differing beliefs cannot have a ceremony that is equally meaningful to both partners.

This most frequently occurs where one partner to the marriage holds a recognised religious belief and the other partner is agnostic or atheist.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Although many marriages are a blend of legal, cultural and social occasions, the restrictions over the past year have brought focus to the legal elements of getting married. Many people have opted for simpler ceremonies so they can be certain of having the legal protection of marriage (for example before starting a family, or if they are anticipating old age or illness).

Celebrants and ministers have had responsibilities to ensure the legality of the marriage and also to ensure compliance with the rapidly changing COVID restrictions, guidance and legislation, regarding numbers, social distancing and prohibited elements e.g. communal singing. It would have been immensely helpful to have an accessible and up-to-the minute source of guidance provided centrally by the Registrar General's office. In the absence of this, individual organisations and celebrants risked running foul of COVID legislation.

Some registration offices in England have been constrained in being able to respond to demand and our celebrants in Scotland have many examples of couples from Wales and England who have 'eloped' to Scotland (from July onwards) because that was the only way they could have a legal marriage.

eg: A couple from Wales who had a large wedding planned for April had this cancelled. They tried to rearrange a small register office wedding when marriages re-started in July but this was not possible as their original ceremony had been in an alternative venue (currently closed), and the registration office was only upholding existing commitments.

A couple from the North of England who felt vulnerable to the impact of coronavirus, didn't want to hold their wedding indoors, so they travelled to Scotland where their ceremony could be held outside.

A couple from England had a wedding arranged for May. As COVID developed they foresaw that their original plans would not be possible and cancelled the arrangements (minimising their financial loss). When they tried to rearrange the registrar would not accept the booking because it has been cancelled by the couple, rather than by the registration office.

In general, many of the ceremonies held since July have been at shorter notice than is normal, with several couples rushing to adhere to the minimum time-scales (29 days before the marriage). Whilst we are confident that all of the marriages our ministers held were genuine and appropriate, the short notice must put pressure on registration services and increase the risk of something being missed.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We have a highly mobile population in the UK. Couples may be getting married in the town where they grew up, or where their parents live, or in a chosen destination.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We have a highly mobile population in the UK. Not all weddings take place in the district where couples are currently resident.

#### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Experiences during 2020 would suggest that increased use of remote working is entirely possible.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Our ministers in Scotland report that although giving notice in an alternative country is possible, it is much more straightforward when this is all completed in the same registration office.

This process is facilitated by being able to lodge notice by post and would be further eased by virtual interviews.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current practice of displaying notices in a public place or reading the banns in church does not serve the current habits and practice of life in the 2020's

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This enables couples to accommodate any necessary changes in date. Our ministers in Scotland (where the time period is between 29 days and 3 months) have many examples of the pressure that couples face in the 3 months before their wedding.

With many other organisational pressures, there are occasions where the legal preliminaries get missed by the wedding couple. Being able to address this 12-months prior would ease that situation.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule would clearly identify the officiant, so that the Registration Office, who should have a record of that officiant, knows that they are on the register, thereby lessening the opportunity for celebrants who are not registered to be fraudulent in their approach to couples.

And yes, a process for amending a schedule with a substitute officiant is perhaps a vital requirement as there could be an occasion when an officiant can't be at a wedding on the day.

It is also important that the couple have met with, and agreed a celebrant and have not just made an assumption that the celebrant will be available. Our ministers have experience of many last minute requests for weddings on a Saturday in June!!

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree and for the reasons stated in the question 11 – illness, accident, other reasons the officiant can't be there on the day.

Also as an organisation, we currently have an informal system whereby an on-call co-ordinator can be contacted if someone can't make a wedding on the day, and they can help find another minister in the vicinity to step in from a bank of available/registered ministers.

Please share your views below:

We do not understand this question.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the prime purpose of the minister/celebrant in a legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends.

If other celebrant organisations (interfaith, Pagan, Humanist) can hold legal weddings then, yes. Especially as registration officers will not have been trained to deliver any spiritual/religious content.

However, in the current situation we think registration officers should be able to work alongside celebrants of other belief systems to officiate a civil marriage as part of a belief-based ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a responsibility on each belief-based organisation to have appropriate systems in place to be able to uphold this duty. These systems should be subject to audit / verification by the national registration authorities.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Partly.

We agree with "a belief system that claims to explain humanity's nature and relationship to the universe".

We strongly disagree with the distinction made between 'religious' and 'secular'. It is the experience of our many ministers who hold legal wedding ceremonies that there is no such clear separation, either in the minds of individuals, and certainly not in the type of ceremony that a couple (holding different beliefs) might want.

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that does not respect all humanity, or has a code of ethics that promotes intolerance, or supports violence to others who are not of the same ethnicity/sexuality or race.

Organisations whose belief systems run counter to humanitarian principals, or whose belief systems are based on modern fictional characters e.g. Winnie the Pooh, Luke Skywalker...

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree - for instance Sharia law, or pagan sacrifice

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

In general no.

We understand established organisations, but new entrants to the system may have less regulated arrangements.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provides assurance for the public that ceremonies are legal and that organisations and celebrants adhere to agreed standards and processes.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We disagree.

This is tantamount to commercialisation of legal marriage. There are many celebrant training organisations who make their profits from training more and more people, without concern or responsibility for how those celebrants are supported on an ongoing basis, and without regard to how many celebrants are 'needed'.

There are currently no standards that celebrant training organisations need to adhere to, nor any professional regulation of celebrants.

In other spheres of ceremony e.g. funerals, there are other moderators in the system. For example funeral directors will know the training organisations and the individual celebrants who are reputable. In marriage there is no such intermediary, and commercially blatant celebrants (or organisations promoting them) would be able to promote themselves to individual couples.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples getting married should be able to have confidence in their chosen celebrants.

As an organisation, OneSpirit, has strict criterion that our ministers are required to meet before being considered for nomination to any of the legal registers in those countries within the UK where wedding law allows this.

Our ministers are audited annually to ensure that they are keeping to a schedule of self-development, updated with any changes in wedding law, are not promoting themselves for profit and are upholding the ethics of our organisation, so that we can with integrity, recognise them as 'fit and proper' persons

to hold legal weddings.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We disagree with the proposal to register independent officiants.

As already mentioned, OneSpirit places certain expectations and obligations upon its ministers who are required to meet specified professional standards, and demonstrates the accountability of its ministers by maintaining a register, which in turn promotes high standards of practice and behaviour and the support of professional regulation.

However, if that system were available to independent celebrants, why would it not be equally available to belief based celebrants (either religious or non-religious)? We wonder why a belief based organisation would need to have a different process.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends.

Should weddings become a business and a way of making a living, there is a greater chance of the profit gained from holding weddings taking precedence over the sanctity and meaning of a wedding to a couple.

However, it must be recognised that a reasonable fee needs to be charged to cover costs and the promotion of beliefs. Our ministers who are registered for legal weddings, in Scotland and other places, are very clear that this is a belief-based vocation as part of their ministry, not a money spinner.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree.

This is incompatible with the proposal at question 32. Whatever system is introduced it must be equal across all organisations and celebrants.

A situation could be envisaged where a belief based individual chose not register as a celebrant with their belief organisation, but chose instead to operate as an independent officiant because they could make profit from weddings that way.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We disagree first with the basis of the question – that there is such distinction between religious and non-religious organisations. In our experience, with our ministers holding hundreds of weddings and speaking with many couples contemplating marriage, the issue is not binary. ‘Religious’ is often perceived as being in a church, rather than about the content or expression of belief. Very often couples tell our ministers that they don’t want a religious ceremony then request the inclusion of a prayer, or a reading from a sacred text.

There should be no such separation, and if all officiants (religious, spiritual, secular-belief) were in one category, then we would agree, that there would be no need for an individual to be authorised under any other category.

eg: one couple who planned a non-religious ceremony, then following the bereavement of a close family member (about 6 weeks before the wedding) wished to include spiritual references to an afterlife.

eg: very many couples where one partner to the marriage holds a defined religious faith and the other holds secular beliefs. It should be possible for such couples to have a ceremony which is neither labelled as ‘religious’ or ‘secular’ and which enables each party to express what is true and meaningful to them.

In Scotland, this has been addressed by some secular / humanist organisations permitting the inclusion of religious elements. It also brings into question what is classified as secular. Many humanists in Scotland include handfasting’s in a marriage ceremony, including jumping over a broom. Yet this tradition has strong roots in a Pagan culture. Would secular officiants be specifically prevented from including such rituals?

In Scotland the more generalised category of ‘religious or belief based marriage’ (including both established faiths and secular beliefs) has enabled new organisations to emerge to match the emerging expression of belief and spirituality in the population. Agnostic Scotland <https://agnosticscotland.org/>

caters for those of all beliefs and none, and Celebrate People <https://www.celebratepeople.co.uk/> has a philosophy which is expressly humanist AND spiritual.

There is a particular challenge with independent celebrants describing themselves as being able to offer religious and non-religious ceremony, without having being trained in any of the faith-based rituals they might offer. We have known of a celebrant holding a 'Jewish' wedding, despite having no personal connection to that faith, or having been trained to understand the meaning of particular elements – there is more to it than just standing under a Chuppah and smashing a glass!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, particularly in respect of not offering commercial services, and being part of a reputable and longstanding organisation.

Whilst there must be a degree of flexibility to meet the couple's personal wishes, it must be the officiants responsibility to ensure the ceremony is dignified, acknowledges the solemnity of marriage, and is also held in safety.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, this would be very welcome. In other parts of the UK where our ministers and celebrants can hold legal ceremony there is a dearth of guidance and training.

eg: general guidance on the legal aspects that the GRO require in each ceremony would be essential, but how the weddings should be conducted ought be up to the nominating organisation and the couples wishes.

eg: guidance on process such as if an officiant suspected a sham/forced marriage for instance, would be very welcome.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree in general:

The organisation that the officiant is nominated by should have that responsibility, and hopefully will be operating within a strong ethical and governance framework, which would pick up any officiants who were failing in their duties and remove them from the register accordingly.

However, if there was a 'central' system for independent celebrants, then this should also be extended to cover belief-based celebrants.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that the GRO should have the power to remove nominated officiants.

However, we would hope not without conversation with the officiant and the nominating organisation first, and if that fails, then also the authority to withdraw the organisations nomination status until the matter had been resolved.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This question causes us some confusion.

We would not be in favour of independent officiants being nominated, whether monitored by the GRO or not.

However, in that case, why not regulate all officiants in the same way.

Why would OneSpirit incur the costs and responsibility of this, if there was an alternative way of achieving the same?

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We would be in favour of a similar process that currently takes place in Scotland where officiants are nominated for a period of three years, after which they apply for re-nomination.

This ensures a level of professionalism and commitment to the role.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, but how will this be monitored?

What are the official CPD courses?

Who is organising them and how are they validated?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, there should be a the same single line included in every marriage – whatever the belief-based or civil, same-sex or opposite sex.

eg: a declaration by both parties that they accept each other in marriage  
A pronouncement by the officiant that the couple are now married.

This can be embellished with belief based concepts and enhanced with the use of terms such as husband or wife/partners in life. But all ceremonies should include this basic statement (for the purpose of legal clarity and equality).

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How can a civil ceremony remain a civil ceremony, if it has any religious content, whoever says it.

A civil celebrant should not have to use any words of belief / religion / sacrament.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be provision for these to be combined in one holistic ceremony. This would require the registrar office and belief based organisation to work together.

There will be less need for this if all belief based organisations (religious, non-religious, SBNR) are able to hold legal ceremonies.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We understand this is part of the ancient system to ensure that neither party to the marriage had a wife in the adjacent village. This is outdated.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, where the minister feels appropriate.

The primary aim of OneSpirit is the safety and wellbeing of its ministers and the public they serve, so providing the location is safe for all concerned then the couple's wishes to have their wedding in the location of their choice should be supported.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In general we agree that weddings be permitted in any place that is safe and appropriate. Safe for the couple, their guests and for the celebrant.

Water - that suitable safety arrangements are in force and in a fixed place on water (to record the legal position).

Air - we cannot see how legal weddings can be achieved in the air, as the position / district / local authority area can't be fixed.

Outdoors - there would be a need to take into account the possibility of adverse weather conditions, and have alternative arrangements in the event the wedding can't take place outdoors.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We disagree - all wedding ceremonies, should be treated in the same way. If public access is available for civil weddings, it should be so for secular/belief weddings too.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The experience of our officiants in Scotland is that it is difficult to legislate in regards to venue. It is for each venue to agree what is permissible, and for each belief-based organisation to agree what is appropriate.

For example, most humanist organisations will not hold ceremonies in places of active religious worship; some Anglican churches in Scotland will permit Onespirit ministers to hold wedding ceremonies; in England some Unitarian churches have OneSpirit ministers authorised at those premises to hold weddings under the Unitarian umbrella.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, but it would be helpful to have guidance on Health & Safety.

Consultation Question 52:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is difficult to define 'dignified'.

Our experienced ministers in Scotland have had requests for situations such as sky-diving 'just because it would be crazy' but have also held ceremonies in unusual circumstances which were entirely appropriate to the couple and their lifestyle.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, this would be very helpful. But guidance, not prescriptive.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps a system similar to that in operation in England and Wales now, where a venue is regularly used. The venue applies to the GRO for a licence to become a registered venue, which is renewed annually, and would ensure that the venue complies with a required criteria of safety measures, so that an officiant would know that all was in order

Please share your views below:

The safety measures and appropriate setting for weddings should be the responsibility of the venue.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We disagree. All marriage should be subject to the same legal process – 2 witnesses, signature of the schedule, registration of the marriage. No exceptions.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legal marriage should be by one unified process. Systematic and authorised.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree.

Plus it should also be clear what the status of a ceremony is. In the situation where a couple have legally married in another place, an officiant (religious or non-religious) must make explicit that the ceremony is symbolic and not legal.

This avoids the officiant misleading the guests about the status of the ceremony.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There needs to be rapid arrangements for authorisation of officiants of specific belief organisations (religious or non-religious) where this is required, with access to emergency numbers etc.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, but there should be a fast turnaround, a sympathetic approach and the ability to do this virtually.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree, our officiants in Scotland report that this works well.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

ON the 4 points above:

1) we agree

2) we agree

3) we disagree – our celebrants in Scotland feel that even in the most extreme situations this would not work. It does not enable the officiant to uphold their responsibility to be assured that each party is wholeheartedly and freely entering into the marriage.

4) we disagree - on the basis that this does not uphold the function of a ceremony. It deregulates marriage to an electronic legal process.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We disagree.

We have examples of couples in international situations (genuine relationships) where a marriage was planned in Australia, but the UK bride could not travel; or the marriage was planned in the UK but the Canadian based groom could not travel. In both these examples the couples went to extraordinary lengths to finally be on the same continent and to have their legal wedding. This only goes to prove that they were genuine.

The proposals outlined above would be open to abuse for people who might be seeking to use 'marriage' as a route to immigration.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The processing of administration should be as simple as possible and expedited. However the presence of all parties in even the simplest of ceremonies should not be underestimated. In extremis, if the parties cannot be together, then perhaps that is the very, very rare occasion when points 3 and 4 (above) could be agreed.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In fixed, agreed locations, to ensure that the marriage is registered to the correct district.

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree. There should be similar rules around training, CPD, etc for all officiants.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We agree. Under Question 67... In extremis, a registrar could hold a ceremony remotely.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Regardless of belief, or location, there should be a standard minimum fee for a legal wedding – e.g. on a Tuesday morning in the register office. This should continue to be a statutory duty.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should also apply to other officiants (religious, non-religious, belief, SBNR)

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Should be discretionary for all officiants, including registration officers

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree - this would help to regulate the system and funds could be used to support training for all officiants.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1 - the current law adds a layer of complexity to those getting married who do not want a religious or barebones civil ceremony, and does discourage couples from getting married in this country. Getting married in another country is one way of resolving the issue of having a wedding that satisfies the individual's beliefs and wedding wishes.

2 - our experience in Scotland indicates that more couples are getting married, but probably more importantly, it is the way that they choose to marry that changes as there is more choice.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Our officiants in Scotland and Ireland report on hundreds of weddings held for people from England and Wales.

Sometimes this is because of family connections but often it is because of the simpler arrangements, the ability to be married outside, and the flexibility of expressing their beliefs (religious, non-religious or a mix of both).

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Our understanding of evidence from Scotland for last 10 years:

little impact on registration office marriage,  
massive [negative] impact on mainstream religious weddings,  
huge increase in Humanist weddings,  
huge increase in humanist organisations (and other varieties), greater choice for couples  
vibrant wedding industry

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD94-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-03 16:27:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Thomas Glyn Watkin

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:  
  
Learned Society of Wales

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am personally aware of three weddings that were adversely affected by the pandemic.

One couple wisely decided to postpone their wedding until the pandemic was over for reasons connected with the bride's chronic ill-health .

A second couple had to cancel their wedding because of the original lock-down, and then had to cancel their revised date at a little more than a week's notice because of the fortnight fire-break in Wales.

A third couple had to 'uninvite' close relatives at less than a month's notice because of revised restrictions in England regarding numbers attending.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I have no strong views on this issue.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I can see no reason to prevent this, particularly given the possibility of interviews taking place remotely.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of ceremonies being officiated by religious officiants, it might be permissible to identify the officiant by role rather than by name, for instance in the case of an Anglican wedding "a serving cleric in the parish of X", leaving it to the incumbent or other appropriate person to designate the officiating cleric at a later stage.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The need for this would be avoided if the officiant was identified by role as suggested in Answer 11.

Please share your views below:



Again, the problem would be avoided if the officiant was identified by role.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

On the basis that universal civil preliminaries are introduced ending the publication of banns generally.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If banns were to continue to be published, it would in my view be appropriate for them to be published in the church/es where the parties reside or regularly worship. There would be little sense in their being called somewhere where there was only a distant qualifying connection with one of the parties.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It would be appropriate for clergy to be able to carry out the same checks as registrars if ecclesiastical preliminaries are to continue.

If a requirement to meet the parties separately is introduced, the meeting should take place in the presence of at least one other person acceptable to but not chosen by the couple.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This would in my view be sensible.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

The publication of banns is outdated and inefficient as a means of identifying impediments. Frequently, banns are published to congregations with no knowledge of either party. It is a quaint survival of an earlier way of life. Even where the parties are well-known, it is a mildly comic addition to the service.

Having said that, many are attached to this sort of tradition, and I can see no reason why, if the parties so wish, banns could not continue to be called as an ecclesiastical added- extra with no legal significance in civil law if the Church is willing..

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

From the point of view of Anglicanism, the role of the priest as officiant is to assist the couple in marrying one another. It is they who do the marrying. The priest's role is to pronounce God's blessing on their union, a role he/she is able to fulfil by virtue of their ordination and which lay persons cannot perform. Hence, it would not be appropriate to allow a lay person to officiate at a wedding according to Anglican rites.

Having said that, in the past Anglican Churches have allowed ordained deacons, who despite being Clerks in Holy Orders cannot pronounce a blessing, to officiate at weddings, where they pray for God's blessing on the couple rather than pronounce it. This however was endorsed at a time when women had

been admitted to the diaconate but were not yet permitted to proceed to become priests. Now that women can be ordained priests, most deacons are only in that role for a roughly a year before becoming priests, so the rationale for the exception has to all intents and purposes gone away

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that they all receive suitable training prior to their ordination.

In recent years, an increasing number of ordinands proceed to ordination without having spent time as residential students in a theological college. The thoroughness of their training, and in particular that of those being prepared for what is sometimes termed "local ordained ministry" has been questioned in some quarters. very firm guidelines need to be in place to ensure that appropriate training is received. In the past, clergy in their first post after ordination would be curates serving under a senior, experienced priest, and would remain such for some years before becoming incumbents in their own right. These days, curacies are much shorter and church weddings fewer, making it more difficult to acquire relevant experience.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I suspect - but cannot be sure - that the points made in the previous answer may be pertinent here as well.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be clarified whether the 20 members are meeting in one venue or are 20 members meeting in different venues.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed.

Most religious organizations would face this test if wishing to enjoy charitable status. It would seem to follow therefore that the same should be the case for non-religious bodies.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Please see the reasons given in response to Question 11 above.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With regard to age, it may be pertinent to note that the minimum age for Anglican ordination is 23, with a further year being served as a deacon before becoming a priest.

Point 3, in my view (as mentioned earlier), could usefully be extended to Anglican ordinands.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Uncertain.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Uncertain.

This might be a matter best left to the organizations to determine.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Careful guidance would need to be given about the expectations, otherwise this would be very - possibly dangerously - vague.

Interesting that having abandoned the term 'solemnization' in favour of 'officiating', 'solemnity' comes back into the picture at this point.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Churches and other organizations should be formally consulted regarding the content of the guidance, and there should be a statutory duty to have due regard to their responses.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

'Primary responsibility' perhaps, but it has its dangers. Organizations might well be judges in their own cause. Some independent monitoring mechanism also needs to be in place.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Clergy, of course, now have a retirement age from office, although they can with permission continue to officiate after retirement.

Given that retired clergy are only likely to be called upon to officiate if the couple requests the individual cleric, there should not be a problem. There might be more of a problem if secular organizations supplied an officiant otherwise unknown to the couple.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Organizations should also be under some obligation in this regard with reference to their officiants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

lb While the parties should not be required by law to express that there is no impediment to their marrying each other, I can see no reason why they should not be permitted to do so if it is historically part of the rite they have chosen for their wedding.

I can see no reason why existing marriage rites should be required to be changed if the parties (or the organization) do not wish it.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given that the agreement of officiants may be constrained by the internal discipline of their Church (or other organization).

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Agreed.

The examples should be gathered by consultation with religious groups subject to a duty to have due regard to their recommendations.

The worst excesses referred to in the report should be avoided. Thus, readings from Scripture, religious poetry, music, the singing of a hymn, a prayer or prayers and periods of silence should all be permitted. Basically, what needs to be avoided is anything which suggests that the lay officiant is performing

a function with a religious significance which in a religious ceremony would require a suitably qualified or authorized person to perform.

If such a person is present, I can see no objection to their performing such a function within the context of the civil ceremony (e.g., pronouncing a blessing) if such participation is requested (and their organization so permits - a matter for the organization).

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If that is what the parties want, why not?

This might for instance be an attractive option for parties from different faiths or with multiple faiths in their families. If the organizations are content, I cannot see any objection to a series of ceremonies if that is the parties' wish.

The repeal of the section might be taken to mean that it was no longer permissible. A suitably amended retention (to accommodate other organizations) would in my view be preferable to prevent misunderstanding.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In effect, this would be a return to the pre-1753 canon law when a marriage could validly be contracted simply by exchange of promises in the present tense or by words in the future tense followed by consummation. While the Church encouraged obtaining sacerdotal blessing, it was not insisted upon. The key requirement is registration of the relationship formed.

Please share your views below:

No intrinsic limitations, subject to safety and dignity.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should I believe be a matter for various organizations involved. If they are not opposed, the law should not prohibit. If they are opposed, the law should uphold their prohibition. It should be for them to prohibit and they should have the legal power to do so.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to there being clear guidance available and the right of organizations to regulate the activities of their officiants.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Asking officiants to determine issues of safety is a big ask.

Dignity is fine, provided there is clear guidance as to what it means.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The guidance on dignity should be drafted following consultation with organizations nominating or authorizing officiants and should have due regard to responses.

Organizations should then have the right to issue their own guidance as well, which could also be binding on their officiants as a matter of the organization's internal rules of discipline.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If religious weddings are to be permitted in secular locations, it should be open to the religious denomination or faith organization to individually or jointly vet the suitability initially and periodically. Religious groups might be permitted to combine to do this if they wish.

Please share your views below:

The mechanism for facilitating the pre-approval process should be set up either by the General Register Office or perhaps by local authorities.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 should be added; 3 should be at the option of the parties.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This availability should apply within England as well as in Wales, given that a wedding may be officiated in Welsh anywhere in either country.

I can see no reason why Welsh ceremonies, or indeed ceremonies in any other language, should not be permitted outside of Wales given the couple can choose their officiant.

Organizations should be required to make it clear in which languages their officiants can officiate, and there should be an obligation upon civil registrars to provide a service in the couple's language or languages of choice (English and/or Welsh) within Wales. It should be open to the Welsh Language Commissioner to set language standards regarding the provision of wedding services by other bodies or individuals.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With some misgivings regarding the absence of witnesses.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Abolition removes uncertainty and makes for simplicity and clarity regarding the law which in turn promotes public understanding.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Although I have no strong opinion in this regard and no practical knowledge or experience, given the overall goal of allowing couples to marry where they wish and how they wish, I would favour allowing wedding to take place on any vessel which was able to meet the general requirements regarding safety and dignity.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The same approach with regard to not having to name the officiant could be useful, as suggested earlier, when choosing to marry in a religious location, for instance at a church in an Anglican parish.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I assume that, and can see no reason against, a fellow passenger or crew member (e.g., ship's chaplain) who is in Holy Orders or otherwise qualified as an officiant should not be able to officiate.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see no reason against a fellow passenger or crew member (e.g., ship's chaplain) who is in Holy Orders or otherwise qualified as an officiant should not be allowed to officiate.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't know whether there is any demand, but I cannot see any objection provided the organization in question is content. Given the overall goal of allowing couples to marry where they wish and how they wish, it would in my view be an unnecessary and unjustified restriction to prevent such ceremonies.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps 'reasonably practicable' would be better.

Given the schedule only remains valid for 12 months, there might be a case for notifying the relevant authority before the expiry date or within a short time thereafter that the wedding has taken place even if the schedule cannot be easily returned at that time.



## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

3. I can see no reason against allowing religious ceremonies to take place in secular locations. I would be puzzled if Christian Churches in particular opposed this or refused to facilitate it. It is commonplace for clergy to officiate at funerals in private, unconsecrated chapels in funeral homes or crematoria, locations which can be adapted to host various faith or non-faith ceremonies. Weddings, like funerals, are 'occasional offices'. While it is true that funerals are not classified as sacraments or sacramental rites (in the manner that Roman Catholics and Anglicans respectively classify weddings), it is again not uncommon for the undoubted sacrament of Holy Communion to be celebrated in secular locations. I did myself at one time celebrate the Eucharist monthly in the lounge of a residential home for the benefit of staff and residents, and I have been at or witnessed many such celebrations for large congregations in sports stadia or parks, including a Papal Mass in a public park in Cardiff. I can see no good reason for not allowing wedding venues run as discrete businesses to accommodate religious services in the manner in which undertakers provide a general service, including religious ceremonies, for funerals.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDK1-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-04 00:04:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a celebrant who conducts celebrant led ceremonies.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have had several weddings cancelled while all my others have been rearranged but this does not mean that they will not be cancelled, while people don't feel they can organise weddings at the moment. Weddings that have already been booked have been rearranged where possible, for some this had been twice, these may be rearranged a third time. Guidance on celebrant led ceremonies has been very unclear and unreliable. Restrictions have been imposed and then changed at the last minute meaning weddings that have been rescheduled to fit in with new guidelines have then had to be cancelled once again due to local lockdowns and fire break lockdowns which unfortunately is the impact of covid rising again. Unfortunately, covid has meant many celebrant weddings have had to be postponed because we were not legally covered by guidelines and therefore our insurance. When wedding were allowed we did not get a clear answer as to whether celebrant ceremonies could go ahead which meant we were advised by memberships and our indemnity insurance that we could not perform ceremonies. However, celebrant ceremonies would probably have been much safer than those taking place in a chapel or registrar offices since celebrant led ceremonies can be performed outside. Covid has impacted significantly on the wedding industry, however, this will have a knock-on effect with weddings in future years, we are already seeing the impact that rescheduling weddings are having on available dates with registrars. Allowing celebrants to conduct weddings legally will help to reduce pressure but will also and give brides and grooms (whether heterosexual or same-sex couples) the right to plan a ceremony without restrictions that are unnecessary and affect their rights to express themselves as a couple. It will give them the freedom to arrange a wedding that is legally binding but also focused on their beliefs and wishes.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We are a global economy, there are many reasons a couple may choose to be married in a certain district including parental links and many people move away from their familial home to live in other parts of the country. This is an outdated concept and does not reflect the modern times we are living in, you should be able to put forward your intention to marry within in any district in the UK from any district within the UK at any point as we are meant to be a 'United Kingdom'.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days seems reasonable as it takes time for weddings to be arranged and paperwork to be processed unless there are underlying health problems that may require special consideration for this to be reduced such as a terminal illness.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think allowing interviews to take place remotely is reasonable if there are reasons that an in-person interview cannot take place, as with the current technology we have excellent alternative with video calls. However, there needs to be something in place for those that appear to be entering a marriage without consent to ensure that these people are protected.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should continue to be possible as UK residents who are relevant nationals as this only seems fair including if they are working outside of the UK for and on behalf of the UK navy etc.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

With covid, some couples are having to book weddings over 12 months away, while weddings are often booked over a year in advance and they have to try and make arrangements with venues and celebrants etc and then have to sit by the phone to get the time slot they need for their legal wedding to

match their date. Hopefully, the changes in the law commission review will make it easier and allow celebrants to conduct legal weddings which will mean that this does not have to happen, however, it may be worth considering extending the schedule as many weddings are booked 1-2 years in advance which will allow easier arrangements to be made.

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems reasonable.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

In extraordinary circumstances that may not be covered in the above question.

#### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no strong opinion either against or for this question. I think that all laws should be fair across the UK whether this is England, Ireland or Wales. I myself am English, my son is Welsh and he has an Irish dad we see ourselves as being part of the UK so I am not sure how this would impact legally on Anglican weddings so cannot offer a view on it at present. However, I feel it should be the celebrant (all celebrants not just humanists) or officiant including religious ministers that are licensed not the location.

#### Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot offer an opinion on this as I am unsure how it would impact legally on Anglican weddings.

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I cannot offer an opinion on this as I am unsure how it would impact legally on Anglican weddings. However, I feel it should be the celebrant (all celebrants not just humanists) or officiant including religious ministers that are licensed not the location.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I cannot offer an opinion on this as I am unsure how it would impact legally on Anglican weddings.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I don't think this has to be done in person, just in a sensible manner to get a valid declaration they can legally marry.

#### Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries to make the process simpler and clearer, with the same rules for each couple regardless of where the wedding will take place.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If these registration officers include offering registration to all officiants including celebrants then Yes however this is not a very clear question as it does not define what you are referring to as a 'registration officer'. If it is only referring to the current registrars that offer restricted services then no. I feel it should be the celebrant (all celebrants not just humanists) or officiant including religious ministers that are licensed not the location and that registration officers should extend to all that have undertaken the relevant registration to perform legal ceremonies, not just those employed by a county council registrar.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as this includes all officiants that should be allowed to conduct weddings including celebrant led ceremonies.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

(if Government enables non-religious belief organisations to officiate at weddings) the relevant governing authority of the non-religious belief organisation should be responsible for nominating officiants to officiate at weddings

Independent celebrants are not focused on a belief but may not be part of a non-religious organisation such as the humanists. If an organisation needs to be responsible for governing who can and cannot officiate a ceremony there needs to be different wording as a couple will nominate a celebrant they wish to perform their ceremony. Humanists while are non-religious are still a religious group as they are still based on theology and do not allow couples to have certain religious elements so restrict ceremonies while Independent celebrants focus on the wishes of the couple. The government needs to establish an organisation where celebrants or ministers of any kind can register themselves as legal officiants whether this is via membership through a registered organisation such as the AOIC or Humanist society or WCC which allows their members to confirm they have had the correct registration however this needs to be open to all organisations that wish to register which would then allow their members to undertake legal weddings. The Non-religious organisation should be able to confirm the validity of the celebrant or officiant to conduct legal weddings but not have the authority to nominate a person as this is then taking the choice away from the couple.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I don't understand this question.

I think simply put all celebrant and non-religious officiants that are part of a valid membership that person celebrant led ceremonies AOIC, WCC, Humanists, FPC should be allowed to perform legal weddings with the right to officiate weddings and the celebrant, rather than the location, should be licensed.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - if any organisation is shown to not having honourable and lawful purposes with regards to marriage they should not be able to undertake legal weddings.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I can't see why not.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is good evidence and reason and no malice to the decision.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I do not think there should be particular impositions as what one person sees as a religious element (i.e. Guide me O thou great redeemer) because it is a hymn another sees as a song they share with family because it is a rugby anthem and to them has no religious connection. If a couple can reasonably show that something that may have religious elements to some matters to them on a personal level they should be allowed it. This does not turn it into a religious ceremony as these are two very different things.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, I think you should be able to get married anywhere as long as you have permission from the land or air owner.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Great Idea.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I think if someone is terminally ill or has a reasonable excuse to have the marriage take place less than the current 7 days notice then there should be something that allows this to take place sooner.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should be the same as awarded to other couples which I have already mentioned I think should be extended due to the time scale weddings now take place within.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I think as long as the valid officiant, couple and witnesses are present as would be in any location the officiant should be able to authorise any private or public boat as a valid place to hold a ceremony as long as it is in valid waters.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am sure there may be couples that may have valid reasons to choose this although it's not something I have come across personally.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think it depends on the officiant, while it is nice to be able to offer a lower fee for some they already offer the most affordable fee to ensure they are offering the best service to all and cannot afford to offer lower fees.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think the current law is very outdated, it restricts couples from including reasonable requests and is too focused on religious and non-religious beliefs over the wishes of the couple that are getting married. I think that the proposal if offered to all celebrants who are part of a recognised celebrant led organisation (not just humanists as is currently the case in Scotland) and all ministers and officiants, would allow couples to have a fair and reasonable choice with up to date and fair marriage laws.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many of my couples are told what they can and cannot have, that they are only allowed certain times or places and this will give them much more choice. It should not be the location but the officiant that is licensed.

Costs need to be determined by the venue, officiant and place of worship.

Couples should not have to have two separate ceremonies to be able to have a ceremony that reflects their lifestyle as is currently the case.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It will give couples the choice as to how much they want to pay and if they want a bespoke personal wedding at a specific location or a wedding a registry office.

I do not think a pre-approval process is necessary as it should be based on the officiant not the location.

Allowing a couple to have their legal ceremony with their celebrant ceremony will help by offering savings.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDK4-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-04 15:56:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Wouldn't want my contact information as such to be published

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not married but am a trained level 3 Celebrant

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable in own capacity

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Didn't conduct ceremonies during this time

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Most certainly of importance with regards to safeguarding and consent

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants undertake detailed and comprehensive training in the field and the qualification is in high regard

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fully trained individuals with relevant qualifications should be appointed to conduct such roles in order to ensure professionalism and understanding of requirements

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As mentioned before, Celebrants undergo lengthy and extensive training in order to obtain their qualifications and should therefore be allowed to practise legally to conduct and carry out ceremonial duties

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDH9-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-04 18:33:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Convert Muslim Foundation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

Responding as someone who conducts Muslim marriage - Nikah, who has made an application to become a Muslim Registrar of marriages so that we can combine the two - the religious and the Civil ceremony.

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Presently widowed but had a Nikah and a civil marriage over 35 years ago

No

Please expand on your answer:

I had my Nikah (religious ceremony) in Dublin and my civil marriage in Leeds. Apart from the legal aspect of it and wanting to be married properly and according to the law I was not fully aware of the legal aspects of marriage at the time - I have educated myself since. But i was married religiously and in Civil Law from the outset - one month apart.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I wanted to be married legally. It was important for me that if we were to be married it was done according to the law of the country I lived in. However I was not fully aware of the consequences if I had not been married according to the law. I came to learn about this through my work as a Muslim and working within the Muslim community - particularly with women

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No legal barriers - wedding a bit small and not a lot of guests but that was fine

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience of this

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel worried about how this could be abused and the possibility of coercive behaviour

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I should imagine this will allow for easier organisation and less time consuming and unnecessary meetings. It would also allow for the application to be made and the person to person meeting to be arranged according to availability which need to be accommodated.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

One week is a safe and standard period of time

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Definitely not remotely - this may be the only opportunity to establish the true nature of this relationship and marriage - It will open the flood gates for sham marriages if it is an online process. For those of us in the community who are trying to curtail marriages that are not consensual or for other dubious reasons it is absolutely necessary to be able to have face to face meetings with the couple separately and to ensure safeguarding

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes but only on the basis that 'both are relevant nationals or exempt from immigration control.' How well would this be established - how safe and secure would this be?

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I've often wondered to what extent this process is relevant and whether the general public really do watch or take notice of such marriage notices - I personally don't but perhaps should do.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Im not sure that I understand the question- what schedule?

#### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I worry about the whole process here - we want to retain the importance and the meaningful significance of marriage. The officiant should be a registered officiant with the registry office and not just anyone or someone picked from oblivion. This process must have a framework of security and safety around it to be rendered official and respectful

#### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but only replaced by an officiant that is registered and recognised by the registry office

Please share your views below:

Not necessarily except perhaps if the officiant is of the same faith background as the couple - a Muslim officiant for a Muslim couple or marriage etc etc but registered to carry out such a duty

#### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

perhaps in the churches that have been frequented by both parties of the couple - so not only in the church where the wedding will take place as these are often chosen due to other reasons - geographical location, beauty of the building, size etc. the authorisation should be posted in the churches that are frequented by both of the couple so that their community are aware of impending marriage.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should. I believe they have the responsibility to do so and to establish certain things before conducting the marriage. this is essential to maintaining the responsibilities around marriage that make it a responsible ceremony

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes - I feel this is a necessary aspect of marriage and of both parties making a statement that there is nothing that prevents them from getting married to each other.

#### Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would this only refer to 'clerks in Holy Orders within the Church of England and the Church in Wales' and not to those who act as religious leaders of other faiths - this is surely a discrimination

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the organisation has proper procedures in place regarding governance and agree that one person of either gender male and female is an officiant on behalf of the organisation. but it would require some training or determination that the officiant is fit for purpose with regard to this role.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

absolutely yes to exclusion. This may lead to all sorts of abusive and sexual perversions etc

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Not really - feel it is important that the officiant is named and known and takes on this role with a sense of responsibility and commitment to the role

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure - this will be difficult to manage and if one officiates at a marriage on one occasion will they see it as their right to carry on doing so or present themselves as a recognised officiant though not registered but has acted as one on one occasion. this may be abused

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

absolutely!

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

total agreement!

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

However there should be a nominal charge that is agreed by the organisation and should not exceed an amount that would make it difficult or impossible for a couple to be married or be a financial burden on them. The officiant should be paid for their time and fulfilling the role as it will usually mean that they have to set aside time for the role particularly at the weekend since a lot of wedding take place on weekends. It should not be a burden and perhaps might be a contribution that is offered rather than a set figure.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must be limitations otherwise people will be ripped off in certain instances

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Confused.com!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely!

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

would be good and advised

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some kind of complaints or grievance procedure where couples who are unhappy with the officiant can use to refer to the registry office and to the organisation but I think the registry office needs to have some involvement here.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Feel the need to put a time limit on this - maybe 3 months during which they attend training and shadow a trained officiant

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely if a religious content is there it being held in a religious building and it is the religious aspect of it that holds the greatest importance for the couple in spite of the civil aspect being included as well - as it has been in churches for so long

Please share your views below:

a Religious sermon based on that particular religious overview of marriage, Prayers said by the bride and groom for each other and for their marriage, prayers said by the congregation to bless the marriage - such like

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure - depends where it is taking place?



## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

To what extent should be be mindful of safeguarding here and our duty to determine that peoples lives will not be endangered?

Not in private homes - as a Muslim I would not feel that this is a safely agreed with marriage and that coercion was not applied in some way

### Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what is being suggested

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Are they going to be required to do a 'risk assessment' of the venue? might be a bit far out don't you think?

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

the venue management

They have presented this to the registry and are an approved venue

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on where it takes place

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

possibly?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must be witnesses in the case of a Muslim marriage  
musty be signed and registered

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

na

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

give notice but there must be some reduced time frame for this - particularly in the case of terminal illness that is determined by a doctor or medical certificate

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to maintain a structure with a Registrars position clearly defined to maintain the sanctity of the marriage process

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No idea and would Question the safety of such requests unless it was on a yacht

I guess a private yacht would be OK if it was registered and insured for a wedding and a crowd

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why would they not give the name of the officiant - I would expect that they should and would.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No clue

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

needs a fixed time limit - if not it could just be detained for any amount of time and who knows what might happen to either of the couple in that time

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't see that the current law necessarily prevents couples from getting married but I do think that the proposals will help facilitate an increase since they are done to try to accommodate a wider need in the case of different cultural and religious needs and that has to be good practice

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I feel that from a religious perspective that certainly lots of people are restricted from performing a civil marriage and it shouldn't be the case - it will be facilitated better if it can be carried out in a place of worship or a religious organisation where the couple frequent and it can all be made easier by having the Nikah and the civil ceremony done together - stands to reason and it is sad that this has not been accommodated before now - but it should still carry the structure of a legally defined marriage and be officiated by a registered person to do that.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Of course there will be savings and that is exactly why it should all be made much easier and streamlined so that the Civil marriage is not put on the back burner and in the end and event of time and family additions - children - it just never takes place

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There are many function rooms where such marriages could take place but they have been prohibitive by the fact that they were not able to be a registered place of a civil marriage - it will be a great help

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Feel they should be registered for the civil marriage to take place - it is not difficult and it adds to the seriousness and importance to the whole understanding of marriage

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

na

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

na

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

na

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

na

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDKF-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-05 00:38:46

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

The Reverend [REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The General Synod of the Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Please do not publish my contact information

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The way in which restrictions have been imposed at brief notice, modified, increased, decreased, on both weddings and receptions, has been distressing for many couples and families, unable to commit to bookings of any kind, and sometimes having to lose bookings and deposits. The behaviour of the government has been irresponsible and harmful, without any evidence for the actions it has taken.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Modern technology enables checking of identity, impediments and status much more quickly than in the past

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that all documentary requirements are completed before the wedding

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The time should be sufficient to allow checking of statements and ID

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in person interview is preferable as an additional means of confirming ID in every case

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Provided ID and other information concerning status can be checked satisfactorily there should be no need for notice outside England and Wales.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The internet is not a secure medium and is open to many kinds of exploitation.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very rarely an officiant is prevented at short notice from being able to conduct a wedding, and provision needs to be made for this.

Please share your views below:

Ideally there should be a register of people recognised and qualified to officiate, made available by the registrar to couples seeking a schedule.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I understood that Banns are no longer published in Scotland

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Simpler rules are better rules and there is little likelihood of this provision being relied upon.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

There is no need any longer to publish banns anywhere. If banns continue, publication only in the church where the wedding is to take place would make life simpler for all concerned.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Clergy do not have any means to verify documentary evidence of this kind.
2. This would be an unwelcome additional burden both for the clergy and for the couple concerned, and would not provide significant extra information about the ID or status of each of the partners.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Without documentary evidence such declarations are meaningless. Common licences depend on information supplied by the couple to a surrogate, who does not have any facility to check evidence, and forwarded to a registrar who must reply upon the forms received from the surrogate. The common licence system adds nothing to the security of the process and should cease to operate.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

The system of universal civil preliminaries in Scotland works well, both for the security of the process, for the simplicity it affords to the couple, and for the officiating clergy who can focus on the religious aspects of the occasion without the distraction of legal requirements. The same system, or something very similar, should replace the current system in England.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The system now in place in Scotland functions very well without such an additional layer of supervision. Officiants themselves should be registered with the registration service and should be regarded as being competent to fulfil these functions without further oversight.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the current system as I understand it and it works effectively. It would be invidious to require civil officers to officiate at religious weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no evidence that the current system of weddings conducted by sole religious officiants lacks anything.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clergy of both churches undergo extensive selection and training for their role.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. I agree in principle, although many small churches and denominations do not have a governing authority comparable to that of the Church of England. It may not be easy to define what constitutes a "governing authority" in some cases.

2. Similar considerations apply.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is very easy indeed to set up a charity or a company, and there will be considerable difficulty in defining what constitutes a responsible "organisation" of this kind.

Please share your views below:

It will be impossible to define such "organisations" pre-emptively. It is better to have a celebrant-based system based on qualifications, recognition and training provided by the state.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, the difficulty of definitions, and evidence as to the size of the organisation. There is already a wide difference between marriage as understood by the Christian faith, and marriage as understood by other bodies, religious and secular.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This would be possible to achieve in terms of public policy or law. It is beyond the competence of the state to define morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

It is impossible to say what constitutes "office". There are numerous small organisations which describe themselves as churches, which are free to define any multiplicity or combination of offices, but without any evidence of training for any role.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would help considerably to ensure that officiants are qualified for the role and safe to employ to conduct a wedding service.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be a satisfactory degree of training and qualification for officiants for them to be authorised. This inevitably excludes self-nominated individuals whose qualifications and beliefs are unknown or untested by a sponsoring organisation.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential both to protect the couples concerned, and to ensure that the law of marriage is fully complied with. But they must be substantial bodies, not ad hoc collections of names and addresses.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is imperative that anyone wishing to operate as an officiant should be a member of and be answerable to their own faith or belief community.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some churches allow their ministers to receive wedding fees personally as part of the way in which they are remunerated. It is not improper to be paid for work carried out, and organising and conducting a wedding can be time-consuming, with particular implications for ministers who are self-employed or paid part time. The Christian faith teaches that "a labourer is worthy of their hire".

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not consider that there should be independent officiants, whose only interest in conducting weddings will be the fees received. Officiants should represent a wider denomination or faith community, and particular beliefs about marriage.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should operate within a defined faith community.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The meaning of this is unclear. Do you mean that the ceremony itself should be conducted in a dignified manner? Or that celebrants should have particular beliefs about marriage?

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a very wide variety of practice and it is unclear what kind of guidance could be given.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Faith communities such as churches are best placed to supervise their ministers.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a very important reform which is urgently needed.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It will be impossible effectively to monitor independent officiants

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Re-registration at set intervals, say 10 years, would provide an opportunity to review the quality of the work carried out by officiants.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is unlikely that adequate CPD would be provided or maintained by the state, so there should not be independent officiants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There will be no need for declarations during the service if checks on impediments have been completed legally prior to the wedding.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure the dignity of marriage there must be a set structure to the ceremony so as to ensure that both legal requirements and those of the faith community concerned have been met in an orderly manner.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the only way to maintain open access to church weddings while retaining control over the rites and ceremonies used.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be permitted but not in such a way as to require the officiant to lead religious content.

Please share your views below:

Hymns, prayers and readings, but not religious forms of vows.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Section 46 allows for a couple who have been married in a civil ceremony in another country to have a religious wedding in the UK. It enables a couple who married in a civil ceremony, who afterwards become members of a faith, to confirm their new understanding of marriage in a religious ceremony. Some faiths do not acknowledge the validity of civil marriage without a subsequent religious ceremony. It enables couples to reaffirm their vows at significant anniversaries following a civil ceremony. To repeal s.46 would potentially be in breach of human rights to manifest one's faith in worship, practice or observance. ECHR Article 9.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public as well as a private act, and should be capable of being witnessed by the community as well as by guests.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will enable couples to manifest their faith or beliefs as they choose.

Please share your views below:

The existing requirement that weddings must take place inside a building is unnecessary and unduly restrictive. For the sake of verification it remains right that the ceremony should take place in an identifiable location, which rules out weddings in the air.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many of these will take place on private property, but must remain accessible for checks by registrars, or by police where there may be security issues.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are numerous distinctions between the state's understanding of marriage, and the different understandings of marriage in the many faith communities, including within such communities themselves. For the sake of clarity, there need to be restrictions which prevent blurring of beliefs or faiths, so that religious weddings, civil weddings, and non-religious belief weddings are discrete and identifiable as such. Venues should be clearly defined according to their faith or beliefs so that couples understand clearly what kind of wedding they will experience.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that all officiants are suitably trained and qualified for their role.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The safety of all concerned must be paramount, and the location must be appropriate to the seriousness of the commitment which is made in marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will be helpful to those being asked to conduct a wedding in unfamiliar surroundings

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It will be helpful for intending couples to have a list of places which are already deemed suitable.

Please share your views below:

It should be the responsibility of the local registrar to assess a venue proposed for regular use and to give it approval

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This information should be included in the schedule prior to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where both languages are used they should be available for use in the ceremony and documents.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hard copies of the documents are of lasting significance to many couples as reminders of their commitment, and are a permanent record whose safety and durability is unlikely to be bettered by electronic means which always risk unreliability of either transmission or permanence of security.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Failure to observe the requirements for witnesses, or to sign the schedule, or to register the marriage, signify that the ceremony should not be regarded as fulfilling necessary requirements for a marriage to become lawful. A schedule containing minor inaccuracies can always be resolved by issuing a corrected version.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If these conditions are not met, it is doubtful whether the marriage has been contracted freely and in the full understanding of the commitments made.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage should be regarded as lawful if the public and legal requirements have been carried out.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The notion of "common law" marriage leads to many difficulties and disadvantages for one partner or another, without the protection that civil law provides for those who are legally married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Relationships are as varied as those entering into them. If there is an issue which calls a marriage into question, it can hardly be limited by an arbitrary number of years, as it may take many years to become apparent.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a cornerstone of society and of family life, and should be capable of being relied upon following the ceremony, in the terms in which it is set both in civil law and in faith communities.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

It should be made much simpler for such weddings to take place, which will happen if officiants are no longer bound to use only currently approved locations.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is no more necessary in terminal illness than in health, unless there are questions about mental capacity - which also applies in health, as in sickness.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current law is too complex, arcane and dated to be fit for purpose. A single route to marry will provide clarity and simplicity for all concerned, provided the resources are available to registration officers to check ID and documents provided.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is not always possible for doctors to predict the likely duration of any illness. There should be no distinction made between those in good health, and those who are not, in terms of issuing a schedule.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no need to make special provision in such cases.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 In the light of the Covid-19 crisis, yes.

3 and 4 should not be permitted. The degree of commitment to marry should always be such as to require the couple to marry in person and in the presence of the officiant and of the witnesses.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see above

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is likely to be impossible to prescribe or to define in advance.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the arrangements made are consistent with the solemnity of the commitment made in marriage, and can be verified documentarily before and after the ceremony.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Provided the arrangements made are in accordance with the solemnity of the commitment made in marriage, and can be documented satisfactorily afterwards.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure the legal integrity of the process, the officiant should be someone recognised for this purpose, and named in the documentation.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be possible for recognised officiants from any category to conduct such weddings.

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There will certainly be a demand for religious-based ceremonies if it becomes legally possible.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The time limit should be reasonably flexible but not extended indefinitely

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People should not face financial penalties because of disability.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that there is medical evidence for such a diagnosis, those who are terminally ill should not be required to pay for legal requirements of this kind.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no fee, on compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have been conducting Church of England wedding services for 35 years in [REDACTED] and in [REDACTED]. My experience is that the current requirements for preliminaries are obsolete, in that they are no longer an effective way of discovering impediments, and are framed in such a way as to be discouraging to those seeking marriage, by way of Banns of Marriage. Having served as an incumbent and as a rural dean, and having studied canon law, my view is that many of the clergy find the current law confusing, and that Banns are sometimes called in the wrong place, or in the wrong service, or even skipped when the minister concerned has forgotten to publish them.

The current law on Qualifying Connections makes little rational sense, and evidence for claims to a Qualifying Connection is rarely available in any tangible form. All of this makes the preliminaries, especially where a common licence or a special licence is required, incredibly daunting both to the couple and to inexperienced clergy. The impression is widespread that a church wedding is a rather arcane way of getting married, only for "insiders" rather than for everyone in the parish concerned.

Simplification by way of replacing Banns/Licences with a schedule will go a long way to opening up marriage in church. It will also be helpful to clergy who are not always comfortable dealing with the administration of a complex legal process, and who do make mistakes with both Banns and registration.

Enabling clergy to conduct weddings in venues other than church buildings will also encourage couples to come forward for a religious ceremony in a setting which is more appropriate than the local church building, which in some cases is too small, or too inaccessible by car or by wheelchair. Many churches have churchyards capable of hosting an outdoor service, and there are many ecclesiastical buildings and chapels which are not parish churches, in which freedom to conduct a wedding would be desirable and beneficial.

By far the simplest solution to my mind is the practice in many countries of requiring the marriage to be legally registered in a state register office, leaving the couple free to have whatever kind of ceremony they want, religious or non-religious, at a venue of their choosing. In this way all the requirements concerning ID, status, impediments etc can be dealt with safely by the state, which accords to marriage whatever legal rights and requirements it sees fit, and the ceremony can fulfil the religious or belief requirements of the couple concerned without any need for state intervention or supervision.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

3. The cost of a church wedding is currently modest, and the fees can be waived in the case of a couple for whom they would be a financial burden.
4. Provided that a church wedding (or a register office wedding) remain available at a reasonable cost, couples should be free to choose whatever venue they prefer as an alternative, at whatever cost they can afford, as is currently the case with wedding receptions.
5. The state attaches significant rights to marriage, and it is important that every couple should have a legally recognised ceremony, where they are eligible, so as to enjoy the rights and protections of the law. But it should be possible for this to be no more than a brief attendance at an office to sign registers, following civil preliminaries, so that those who want a religious or other ceremony may celebrate their marriage according to their own beliefs or traditions. Because of the divergence between what the state understands to be marriage, and what different religions and communities understand about marriage, it is best for the legal aspects of this to be handled by a registrar, and for couples then to be married according to their own rites and customs in a separate ceremony, conducted by and recognised by their own minister or celebrant, entirely separate from the preceding registration of the legal commitment made by the couple.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

2. In my experience the costs are not the most important issue considered when planning a wedding. The choice of venue for the ceremony is a high priority, along with the choice of a venue for a reception afterwards. Many couples would like to have a religious wedding at the location of their reception, to avoid travelling in the course of the day. Freedom to marry outdoors or in private homes would add to the options available and would prove popular.

3. Religious organisations such as the Church in England have combined registration and ceremony because of the development of England as a State with an established religion, in which the clergy were the only educated office-holders in many places. But when the Church no longer holds a monopoly, and indeed is now one of many conducting weddings, there is no logical need for the Church or other faiths or beliefs to continue to administer the legal requirements for what the State now defines as marriage.

As is the case now, there will always be those who require only a simple ceremony at a register office, at a modest cost, and not always followed by a reception. If it became universally understood that such a ceremony confers the rights and protections which the state affords by law, and that it is a requirement in order to be recognised by the state, it would not be an issue for those seeking a separate ceremony in accordance with their own preferences, but understood as readily as registration for the right to vote, or registration of a property with the land registry, or a car with the DVLA.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no experience of these issues.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

3. There are already many venues such as castles and stately homes with private chapels, and there are many people who would prefer to have their wedding at the place of their reception so as to keep logistics simple. The clergy are already asked if they can officiate other than in church and currently are unable to do so, but would be glad to do so if the law permitted them to conduct weddings in other venues. Venues, whether with a private chapel, a banqueting hall or a spacious garden, are well equipped to host such a wedding, since the ceremony itself can easily be conducted without special furniture or equipment.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Greater simplicity and greater clarity will enormously assist people in both categories, particularly if all civil preliminaries are conducted in future by registrars. At present the complex rules concerning Qualifying Connections and the publication of Banns are unworkable for the clergy, let alone those seeking to be married in church.

Universal civil registration would cut many Gordian Knots.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A simple system of civil registration for anyone wishing to obtain the legal benefits of marriage, in any circumstances, would remove many doubts, many anxieties, many misunderstandings, and enable the state to ensure that those being married were appropriately qualified to do so.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

There is potential for reduced costs for couples by simplifying civil preliminaries. This may benefit wedding venue businesses by encouraging more people to marry and to book a reception afterwards. Freedom to provide a religious service anywhere it is sought would be of great benefit to the Churches and to other faiths in enabling them to meet the needs of those who seek a marriage ceremony according to the requirements of their faith.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDKH-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-07 13:55:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Baptist Union of Great Britain

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – we welcome this proposal as this has been a key issue for some Baptists being unable to marry in their choice of church venue.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – this seems a sensible step.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In general, we would be in agreement with this suggestion. However we would be concerned that strong safeguards would be needed to protect all those involved (couples, and registration officers) from fraudulent practice.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that a substitute officiant should be able to officiate in an unexpected situation.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Baptists have a history as a dissenting denomination – we do not believe that there should be an established Church, and so do not believe that there should continue to be special arrangements for the Church of England or Church in Wales. All weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This is a decision for the Church of England/Church in Wales to make.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – for Baptist churches the relevant governing body will be the local church congregational meeting.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

We are clear that an organization which promotes purposes that are unlawful should not be enabled to nominate officiants. However, it is unclear what 'public policy or morality' means in this situation. It is 'public policy' to allow same sex marriages to take place, but many churches would not be in favour of a same sex wedding taking place under their auspices.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Whilst initially attractive, we do not feel that this would serve our churches well. As we indicated earlier, the relevant governing body for Baptist churches nominating officiants is the local church congregational meeting. If there was a pressure to nominate officiants by office rather than by name, this may serve to dissuade people from offering to serve in a particular role, or from accepting a call to ministry in that church if this includes an expectation that they will serve as an officiant. We believe it is better for people to be specifically nominated for this role.

We would hope that the costs of nominating a new officiant would be kept low enough that churches would be able to update their officiant(s) at reasonably regular intervals.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that civil wedding ceremonies should be able to have religious content, provided that the overall ceremony is identifiably secular.

We would agree that a list of specific examples of religious content should be drawn up, so that there would be consistency between civil wedding officiants.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – it would seem that this no longer serves a useful purpose, and contributes to confusion about the legality of the marriage.

Consultation Question 47:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that all weddings should be legally permitted to take place anywhere, subject to the agreement of the couple and officiant, and the usual health and safety concerns. We note that particular religious/non-religious groups may impose extra conditions for weddings to meet their own requirements.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We would not wish to pass judgement on the whether venues are suitable for a particular religious organization. For Baptist church nominated officiants, this would be a matter for the local church to decide, and just because a venue had been used for a Baptist wedding previously would not mean it was suitable on all occasions.

We see that this would be a logical step for civil weddings, however.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

When not in a pandemic situation, the processes governing weddings of those with a terminal illness, or who are otherwise confined, works well.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In principle, we are happy with these suggestions. In our ecclesiology, the celebration of a wedding where none of the participants or congregation were able to be physically present in the same space would be just as valid as a wedding with everyone in the same room. We realise that such a facility would have saved much heartache in the lockdown situation earlier this year.

However, it is always for us more preferable to be able to gather together physically, and we would not wish for these emergency provisions to be used too often and so become normalized.

Additionally, as in our answer to Question 7 earlier, we urge that strong safeguards against fraud and coercion would need to be established before a completely virtual system was enabled.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We have not been made aware of demands for Baptist weddings in international waters.

It is conceivable that a cruise ship may in future employ a chaplain, and possible that the chaplain may be asked to perform a religious wedding ceremony, but this situation has not yet occurred to the best of our knowledge.

However, we think that the current proposals contain enough flexibility for a meaningful ceremony for a couple in such a situation, should this arise in future.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDGE-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-08 14:36:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Self Employed Celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Does anyone actually check?

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Can it not be to suit both sides?

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that is a good idea. However, if the Registrar felt that something was not right could they reserve the power to request a face to face meeting?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A substitute should be able to cover whichever area is needed.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMB-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-08 22:15:43

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

-- Please Select --

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We had a marriage planned for 24th March which had to be postponed at the 11th hour. This was very stressful for the couple concerned. The groom had already started his journey from Somerset to West Sussex and all arrangements were in place. The couple were unable to start their life together until things could be rearranged once lockdown was over.

All of this could have been avoided had the wedding had been able to take place in the home in a covid-safe environment.

Difficulties visiting registry offices in this pandemic could also have been avoided with a simple online application process in place.

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would simplify the process for those coming to England to get married.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would also simplify the process for those coming to England to get married.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

This is an adequate time

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree with this

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree with this

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes perfect sense

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A good time frame

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will provide cover should the original officiant be unable to attend for any reason

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Removes the dependence on one person attending

Please share your views below:

Yes, if requested by the couple and the substitute is available and willing

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant would be the current authorised person

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This could be the trustees of the registered building as is current with authorised persons. Even if the it's no longer a building based system.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An organisation that holds to the sanctity of marriage would be one with a sincerely held belief about it.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Organisations that promote what is unlawful and criminal should be excluded.

Organisations that hold to strong Christian beliefs that maybe contrary to public policy or morality (i.e. same-sex marriage) should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Gives accountability

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important that responsibility is upon them to appoint suitable persons

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

V important

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Similar to current guidelines

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I feel it is the duty of the nominating body to ensure the officiant complies.  
PBCC would see this as extremely important that the officiant upholds the dignity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Correct standard important

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary to have a time limit

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Professional development could be interpreted in different ways

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good sense

### Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

wouldn't be necessary

### Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Impediments checked prior to wedding would remove the need for this.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the dignity of the ceremony can be upheld

Please share your views below:

Private home in simplicity of the family setting would be a relaxed and congenial atmosphere.

Would have worked well during Covid

Would be meaningful for many couples to marry in their own home

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant would have regard for the desires of the couple.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Venue should be safe and dignified and free of any risks

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so long as not over prescriptive in relation to marriage in the home

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be helpful if this could be done prior to the ceremony

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important to have lines that cant be crossed for the marriage to be valid.



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow for an oversight rather than a wilful stray from the obligations

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

important points to be upheld

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a committal, not a mere presumption

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this would be deceitful and fraudulent

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The proposals are welcomed

In the Covid situation some may have been unable to get married and some overseas marriages have been difficult in the past.

My well lead to a greater number getting married which is good.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriage in the home would provide a significant cost saving for the couple and family

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present law is restrictive for those travelling from overseas to get married in England and Wales

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would be helpful to

- a) Abolish the notice period or reduce it from the current 28 days
- b) Facilitate the preliminaries being done online
- c) Abolish the requirement for residence

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Simplifying arrangements will save costs

Eg Many would like the liberty to marry in the home which could represent significant cost savings to organisations and couples

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDVH-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-08 22:50:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Plymouth Brethren Christian Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am the authorised person (responsible) for solemnising marriages at several church halls in the [REDACTED] area. I have had no immediate experience conducting a marriage during the Covid 19 pandemic.

I have had contact with friends who have had to put their marriage on hold due to the pandemic.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would make it easier for persons coming to England to get married.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would make it easier for persons coming to England to get married.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Three days would be adequate

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At our church we have two officiants registered for the building and therefore a reserve is available if one of the officers cannot attend.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It makes sense for a substitute officiant to be available and there may be situations where the couple request it.  
I had the situation where my daughter was getting married at the church and I expected her to request the assistant authorised person to conduct the marriage. In the event she actually asked me to go ahead.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At present the officiant would be the current Authorised Person.

The persons getting married should also be able to choose their officiant from their church.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If we moved away from a buildings based system it would be good for the governing authority or the trustees of that organisation to nominate the officiants.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At our church the sanctity of marriage is upheld and members do not live together prior to marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree that some organisations that promote unlawful or criminal practises should be excluded.

However organisations that have genuinely held Christian beliefs that may seem contrary to public policy (eg same sex marriage) should not be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our church does not charge for marriage ceremonies.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At the same time the GRO should respect the wishes and practises of religious organisations in the conducting of their marriages.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No longer necessary

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Per example if the marriage ceremony proceeded in the home it would not be a requirement to have open doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would broadly agree with this whilst the dignity of the ceremony needs to be maintained.

Please share your views below:

I particularly welcome the suggestion that weddings should be able to take place in private homes.  
The ceremony can be performed in simplicity in the family setting whilst maintaining the dignity and solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the officiant should be sensitive to the views of the couple as to where they are married.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems reasonable. Guidance should not be over prescriptive regards to weddings taking place in private dwellings.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

These proposals simplify wedding procedures and should facilitate marriages taking place.

If this means an overall increase in the number of couples who are legally married, this would be a good result.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is a fact that many couples are put off getting married by the high costs involved.

If simpler and more affordable procedures were put in place (such as having the marriage ceremony in the family home), this would be a great advantage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is restrictive for persons travelling from overseas to get married in England and Wales.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Helpful reforms in this regard would be the reduction in the notice period and the abolition of the residence requirement.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The facility to have the marriage ceremony in the home would have significant cost savings for the couple and their families.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDGW-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-09 07:49:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As a celebrant I know how frustrated couples get that they have to still attend the registry office in order to be legally married when they regard the humanist ceremony as the real wedding. I would happily undertake further training and commit to CPD if my ceremonies could be legalised.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

How wonderful to allow everyone the freedom of choice to celebrate their love in their way. The current law is archaic and amendments are long overdue.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDC7-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-09 15:14:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

My partner and I are engaged. Neither of us is religious, so we would like to have a humanist ceremony without having to also organise (and pay for) a legal ceremony as well. At the moment this is not legally possible.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My partner and I got engaged in February. Due to Covid restrictions and underlying health conditions, we have been unable to set a date, give notice, or make any arrangements since the relevant Council offices have been closed due to Covid and notice must be given in person. Some offices are now open,

but demand is huge and we are still unable to set a date or make firm plans, ten months on. As I am vulnerable, we are unsure when we will be able to make plans for our legal civil partnership

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Proving residency in the country should be sufficient. Giving notice should be possible anywhere, as long as residency in the UK can be proved. The current system seems utterly archaic in the present era when people are much more mobile. If I live at my house during the week, work 60 miles away, and spend weekends with my partner in another part of the UK, being able to choose where to give notice would greatly reduce barriers.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would modernise the archaic system and bring it into the modern age. I understand the reasons why in-person interviews are required, but in times of crisis (such as the current situation) requiring in-person interviews means making plans impossible and will result in a large backlog when offices re-open. In-person interviews are also more difficult if they must be done in the area of residence (see previous question) for those of us who commute significant distances to work.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I have no strong feelings here. Some minimum period is sensible.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

As I suggested above, this would modernise the archaic system and bring it into the modern age. I understand the reasons why in-person interviews are required (such as those outlined in the question), but in times of crisis (such as the current situation) requiring in-person interviews means making plans impossible and will result in a large backlog when offices re-open. My partner and I are currently unable to make plans for our civil partnership ten months after we got engaged. With the current upward trend in Covid cases, and the extension of many of the rules, we may well be engaged for over a year before we can even book a date.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This seems like a good idea. Couples in the illustrated situations must find the logistics more difficult, and this would make things simpler.

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As a teacher, I feel strongly that notice of my intended plans should not be accessible to my students.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no strong feelings here.

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely. Not allowing this can presumably cause unplanned delays and significant distress for those affected.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems logical.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, in principle, but this would complicate things. Would a cult of 20 members be able to legally marry couples? Would there be any oversight of the authorised organisations?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It would be odd if organisations promoting purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality were allowed to nominate officiants to legally marry people.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Having a public list would allow some way to check that officiants were genuine and approved. This is especially important in the situation where smaller organisation become allowed to nominate officiants, or where independent officiants are allowed.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Someone needs to have this oversight, and this seems a sensible place to put this. There needs to be penalties if nominated officiants from a particular organisation repeatedly turn out not to be "fit and proper" persons.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This looks like a sensible set of minimum requirements. As for some other professions, registration could be renewable every year or two, on proof of adequate CPD having been completed.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Everything else in the sector seems so profit-driven, it would be a bad thing if officiant fees escalated as a result of any change in the law. Officiants do need a fair fee for their services, of course, but how to manage these tensions needs some careful thought.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I noted above, the sector has already reached the point where costs are astronomical.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious leaders do not officiate at ceremonies or services for other faiths, neither should officiants. If a couple choose a humanist ceremony due to their beliefs, they should be able to have a specialist humanist officiant, someone who believes in and understands the principles of the organisation and its beliefs.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but the guidance should be restricted to the mandatory legal necessities.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this should not be the only route.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be this mechanism as a fail-safe in cases where the organisation fails to act for any reason.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Someone needs to have this oversight for independent officiants, and this seems more efficient than creating a new body to oversee this.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As with registration in other professions, there should be re-registration every so often upon evidence of still meeting the criteria and having completed sufficient CPD.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no conflict here. For example, singing a hymn that has special significance to the couple should be allowable, even if the rest of the ceremony is non-religious.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The restrictions are old fashioned and out of touch with the modern world.

Please share your views below:

I see no reason why the venue should be restricted on anything other than health and safety grounds, assuming permission is sought from the relevant landowner or authority. Allowing people to marry in private homes could be a valuable option for people with serious health conditions, terminal illness, or mobility problems.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming all parties agree, I see no reason to prohibit such arrangements.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems logical. Training in what is appropriate and legal would need to form part of the mandatory training.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is logical. Although how it would be enforced/monitored is another matter.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like a sensible way to speed up the process for regularly-used venues.

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office could hold records of pre-approval, which officiants could then check easily.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be more equal than the current rules.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given the problems caused by the current situation, and the resulting backlog, absolutely. The technology is there.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For couples who cannot afford the costs of arranging an event, this is a realistic affordable option and should remain.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDG1-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-09 15:41:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

KSIMC of

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

West Midlands

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

zoom interview

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

same for minister of religions for other faith

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDGR-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-09 22:36:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Cost of authorised premises use

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The reasons for this being in place is historical and has no relevance where people are more mobile and are not restricted on movement. It is an unnecessary bit of red tape that adds more administration to a process that does not need or gain value from. I would save costs both for the couple and the council

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as each person has a in person assessment to avoid pressure from external influence that may identify forced marriages or coercion

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The problem with an initial remote interview followed by an in person one if there are concerns may raise suspicions with those involved with sham marriages. Although I am loathed to say this, but I feel that in person interviews should be retained in light of this, and remote used in exceptional circumstances

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree that notice should be able to be given outside of England and Wales whether necessary

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

For consistency

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be required to undertake same training as civil officiants,

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing they have attained a certain level of training

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But also external vetting to get on the register

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no conflict of interest whatsoever, and fees should be set centrally

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the responsibility of the general register office

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should have to seek reauthorisation, proving compliance

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Or the local office, where a location is submitted for review and approval

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be exclusions set out of any, and a process for appeal if denied by any one officiant

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Annual submissions by the venue/location for review by general register office or local office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with mistakes and lack of witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fixed time limit should remain

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This cost should not be borne by the taxpayer

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Cost of licenced premises is prohibitive, when most people would just like to share the day and their commitment with friends and family. Long waiting times and inflated prices due to the restrictive nature of licenced premises is definitely putting myself off a wedding involving family and friends

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many register offices are not pleasant buildings, which deter people. Approved premises hike prices up, as they know people will go into debt to have a nice wedding. Allowing a greater choice of location will help couples choose somewhere suitable for their needs and wishes, reducing the number who get into debt as a result.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDG4-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-09 23:29:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I was married by an independent celebrant

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because I am not religious and register office weddings are cold and soulless

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a celebrant, have lost all weddings thatwete to be legalized in a registry office, but have had more intimate couple elopements than ever.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is unfair and restrictive

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow more choice

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

i think seven days with a clause that for those in hospital or hospice with a reduced life span could bypass this

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, I feel in person is safer.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes, this consultation is about choice

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

absolutely, the right thing, transparency is key

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

18 months.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

totally necessary. as long as the substitute has training and affiliation.

Please share your views below:

this is vague

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

yes to the second

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

as long as celebrants are considered for legal civil ceremonies

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as this includes both independent and humanist celebrants

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as this includes both independent and humanist celebrants

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as this includes both independent and humanist celebrants

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

independent celebrants are independent. we follow guidelines but ate not chosen by our representatives

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes absolutely

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important couples can choose

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but should be allowed to add individual elements to the ceremony that are in keeping with the couples wishes. who gets to choose eja is dignified?

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

at present the way civil weddings take place is outdated and is unsuitable for many. our training and continued development prepares us for or this role.

training is needed only for legalities

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



extremely important

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important, many Christians wish to be married in law, invite god into their wedding but have been ostracized by the church. prayers are welcome anywhere.

Please share your views below:

no examples, we are professionals and should not suppress imagination.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

we are in a changing world and choice is key.

Please share your views below:

no restrictions as long as its in the uk

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

we are professionals and have training, this should fall within our remit

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important. We should be charged with choosing what is dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

N/a

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

i think people who are terminally ill should be allowed to forego the normal notice period.  
those who are housebound should be allowed to have a home visit to give notice.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

### Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

don't know

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes if covid has taught us anything!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

extremely important

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No reason what a wualified and exoerenced celebrant can not take on this role

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

yes, but they dont want to be married by ships crew. they have a job they are expert at. Independent celebrants have a job they are expert at. Lets not muddy the waters.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some people just want to sign the documents sobthis should always be possible.

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should not happen. This is the job we already do as independant

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no pre approval. This will lead to limited choces of a different sort.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

thousands of individuals chose to have independent celebrant weddings for the ability to have choice. please be careful not to create a different sort of prejudice.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

it is unfair to ask couples to pay twice for a legal certificate of marriage when they have had an individual wedding already. It is farcical. This is 2020 and this pandemic has shown as that family is important but also that big huge weddings are not always needed. small intimate garden weddings are my specialty and it breaks my heart that I can not legally marry my couples, who have to undergo what they believe is a sham wedding at the local registry office in order to be legally married.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD47-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-11 15:44:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Heritage Alliance

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We strongly support the Law Commission's core proposal of their provisional scheme to regulate the officiant rather than regulating the building in which the wedding is held. Many of our members find the law governing weddings bureaucratic and complex, which prevents our world-renowned heritage sites from hosting weddings and generating additional income. We do not think the law should limit weddings in any particular venues, in particular, we think a wider variety of buildings (including historic houses), outdoor sites (such as private parks or gardens of heritage sites) as well as historic mobile heritage, such as trains and boats, should be allowed to host weddings.

We also strongly disagree with the current requirement that each person should have been resident in England and Wales for seven days before giving notice as this makes it more difficult for some couples to marry and prevents others from doing so altogether. Heritage is a key part of the UK brand and tourism offer. Changing the outdated residency requirement would have an important and significant impact on the heritage sector as many couples who have no prior connections to England and Wales may be attracted by our rich heritage and want to marry in a castle, stately home or another historic venue. By attracting international couples who wish to marry in the UK, our heritage will be strengthened as a beacon for international tourism and generate more income.

Please share your views below:

Please see the answer above. We do not think the law should limit weddings in any particular venues, in particular, we think a wider variety of buildings (including historic houses), outdoor sites (such as private parks or gardens of heritage sites) as well as historic mobile heritage, such as trains and boats, should be allowed to host weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We do not think that the public nature of a wedding necessarily means that it cannot take place in a private venue, for example, a private historic house.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The Heritage Alliance does not have strong views on this question, but we support Historic Houses' position on point 2 that some historic venues have private chapels in which they would like to be able to use for small civil weddings and would be an appropriate and popular option for some couples, particularly older couples - see paragraph 7.155 of the consultation paper.

Some of our member organisations also care for churches which remain consecrated buildings. These churches are bound by the terms of the conveyances of all Anglican churches. A wedding in these churches requires a Special Licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Registrar which is a timely and expensive process. One member told us that "Despite lots of enquiries annually, a couple of people per year choose to apply for a licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and most are turned down. Using our churches for weddings is one of the ways in which we can generate income for the building's upkeep, but the current system does not make this easy." Changing the rules around weddings in churches is likely to have a positive impact on income, allowing churches at risk to be repaired and restored.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal would help to reduce unnecessary, costly regulation, most apparent in the current process of approved premises for civil weddings that currently affects our members. Please see our answer to question 48 for detail.

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, we agree. Guidance to offer advice to officiants on how to assess whether a wedding location is safe and dignified would be welcome, but we agree with the Law Commission's proposal that the law doesn't need to impose explicit requirements.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD49-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-11 18:15:16

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As a celebrant, the Humanist weddings I conduct are not legally recognised in England and Wales (although they are in Scotland, Northern Ireland and other jurisdictions)

I myself was married in a Humanist wedding ceremony, so had to 'legalise' the marriage separately with a civil ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a celebrant - I make the couples I work with fully aware that humanist ceremonies do not currently have legal status in England and Wales.

As an individual - yes I was fully aware that a humanist ceremony is not legally recognised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a celebrant - The majority of couples choose to also have a civil ceremony to 'make it legal' (and feel forced to do so). Couples choose a humanist ceremony for many reasons, but mainly to reflect their personal values (conducted by a celebrant who shares those values) in a meaningful way to them. For humanists and non religious people, this is not possible through any form of legal marriage currently. Some end up opting for a legal civil ceremony (even though they would prefer the humanist marriage) because they cannot afford both.

As an individual - My deeply-held humanist beliefs should be given the same status as faith-based religions. It feels deeply unfair that a Christian or Muslim can be legally married in a religious ceremony, and yet a humanist must go to a civil venue that has no connection to their values or beliefs.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I (along with most of the couples I work with) felt forced into a civil ceremony that bore no relation to my beliefs. This also has a huge financial implication in having to effectively pay for 2 wedding ceremonies, vs religious people who don't.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Humanist weddings are not legally recognised in England and Wales. This means that humanist couples, unlike their religious counterparts, cannot have a legally recognised marriage conducted by a suitable officiant who shares their beliefs. The available legally recognised ceremony cannot fully express their humanist beliefs and values.

And the restrictions on locations mean that many cannot have a legally binding marriage in the location that is most meaningful to them, unlike religious couples.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The frequently changing regulations have been disruptive for all wedding couples, but for humanists more than most, because of the differing regulation of humanist weddings at times, as well as the need to re-plan and book two ceremonies rather than one to be legally married.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

As a celebrant accredited by Humanists UK, my colleagues and I share humanist beliefs and values, as well as being trained to a similar professional standard.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if Humanist ceremonies were legally recognised

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any reason to maintain the requirement to have a registrar at any religious or belief-based marriages. Their presence also leads to unhelpful confusion as to whether such marriages are actually civil marriages.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I support a move away from a law that bases recognition of marriages exclusively on the buildings in which they take place, which discriminates against those citizens whose beliefs accord with groups (including humanists) that don't have places of worship.

Nomination by recognised responsible organisations (religious bodies, Humanists UK, etc.) is appropriate.

With that said, I am concerned about the ease with which bodies purporting to be religion or belief groups could be established in order to gain the power for officiants to conduct marriages in any location – which could lead to de facto commercial operators taking monetary advantage of this. We need some way to ensure that the organisations responsible for approving officiants truly exist for faith/belief based purposes rather than primarily commercial gain.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I object strongly to this. the law should simply refer to those beliefs that are relevantly protected under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights – as these are the beliefs that the UK has a legal duty to extend recognition to.

My objections are as follows:

1. The proposed definition does not make clear that the sole or principal purpose of the organisation must be to advance its belief system. This is essential in order to stop de facto commercial operators springing up who identify with a particular belief system but whose sole or principal purpose is in fact the provision of legally recognised marriages and associated activities. NB that 'sole or principal purpose' is a feature of the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013 definition
2. This definition would admit beliefs that on any account should be excluded. I believe a requirement that the beliefs of any belief or faith organisation must be cogent, serious, cohesive and worthy of respect in a democratic society, be compatible with human dignity; and not conflict with the fundamental rights of others – as per wider case law around human rights, and the Equality Act 2010.
3. The word 'secular' is a heavily overloaded and ambiguous term with many, often contradictory definitions. Examples of secular organisations include football clubs, the Natural History Museum, the Conservative Party, and so on.
4. I would prefer an approach that relies on human rights case law as it relates to non-religious beliefs, rather than one that attempts to create a definition based on a case (Hodkin) that turned on the legal definition of worship. The law could refer to non-religious beliefs protected by Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights that are therefore analogous to religions. This would unambiguously line up marriage law with what human rights law requires. It would also limit which non-religious belief organisations are authorised to conduct marriages to those that are analogous to religions, and those with an intrinsically linked belief about marriage. That would avoid many of the problems that could arise if a more Equality Act-style definition is pursued, given the large number of other beliefs (e.g., about specific topics such as veganism, public service broadcasting, and so on) that have been recognised as meriting protection under the definition of 'philosophical beliefs'.

Please share your views below:

Rather we need a statutory definition of what DOES constitute a non-religious belief is vs requiring a list of excluded groups. It should be straightforward to create a sufficiently restrictive definition as to capture the relevant non-religious groups while excluding any other groups.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I worry that these minimal proposed qualifications could lead to reckless commercialisation at the hands of groups that purport to be aligned to some religion or belief but in fact are primarily motivated by commercial interests.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree with excluding organisations that promote unlawful purposes.

BUT the phrase 'contrary to public policy or morality' is far too vague. Humanism and Atheism for instance were contrary to public policy, e.g. in the case of same sex marriage (and still are in some respects, e.g. challenging policy on assisted dying, state schools etc).

Who gets to decide what is and isn't contrary to public policy or morality?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would pave the way for an unrestricted market for commercially motivated independent celebrants, in competition with civil officiants. None of the reasons given for extending legal recognition to marriages conducted by commercial celebrants is strong – they all focus on benefits for the celebrants themselves, rather than for couples.

The risk to these couples is in undermining the quality, dignity and sincerity of marriage.

Personally as a humanist celebrant, this is a vocation for me rather than a profit-focused enterprise. I have the couple's needs, values and beliefs in mind first and foremost. Many commercial celebrants claim to be able to perform 'humanist weddings', in spite of having received no training in how to do so - thus undermining our ability to help maintain standards and consistency.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree in principle, but the responsibility shouldn't be purely on the organisation. The registrar general should also have the power to remove accreditation, as well as all officiants being required to be fully DBS checked (as Humanists UK already requires)

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that commercial celebrants should gain legal recognition for their marriages, so this question should not arise.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, my colleagues in Northern Ireland and Scotland already operate under this system. They charge a reasonable fee for their work, reflecting the time and effort put into crafting a humanist ceremony, and any profiteering is avoided.

However, ceremonies do vary in how much they cost to provide! Humanist ceremonies are entirely bespoke to each couple, written to reflect perfectly who they are, their personal histories, their values and their families. I spend extensive time getting to know the couple. I familiarise myself with the venue in advance of the ceremony, so that it can be best utilised in proceedings, which often includes holding a rehearsal.

I do all of these things because it is intrinsic to humanist ceremonies to make the ceremony as meaningful as possible to the couple and their loved ones. This flows from the core humanist belief that the meaning in our lives is not pre-determined by faith but created ourselves. So my job is very time intensive!

This is in strong contrast to other types of ceremony I've experienced, e.g. where a religion defines a standard script. Registrars similarly follow fairly standard scripts, with little variation, and usually don't meet the couple they're marrying before the day of the wedding. So I generally put a lot more time

into each ceremony than other officiants do. I typically spend about 30-60 hours per ceremony - in other words, up to 1.5 working weeks! So my fee reflects the time and effort put into each ceremony. This is NOT about profit, but is just a reflection that such ceremonies involve much more work.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that commercial celebrants should gain legal recognition for their marriages, so this question should not arise.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

it depends on how restrictive the guidance is, and whether it undermines the central reasons and values that define a humanist ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil marriage serves a distinct purpose: it is a form of marriage available for those who don't want to get married in a way that expresses a particular religion or belief.

Please share your views below:

none should be allowed, it muddies the waters vs belief based marriages

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanist weddings often take place in private homes and gardens. Keeping the requirement for open doors would be problematic. As well as unwelcome intrusion on these deeply personal occasions, it raises the risk of opportunistic trespassing/ theft etc

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the venue for a humanist wedding is often chosen for a deeply significant link to the couple's relationship, and this is an essential element of the way I help couples plan their ceremonies.

(With certain caveats, e.g. not to undermine the dignity of the occasion, not to cause a public obstruction, cause a safety issue etc)

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Yes it should be technically possible, with previously stated caveats re dignity, safety etc.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In a hired events venue (e.g. hotel, stately home etc) the venue should take responsibility and liability for safety.

In a private venue e.g. a home or garden, the couple (or owners of the home) should be responsible.

In a public space e.g. beach, countryside, clifftop - the liability should rest with the couple.

In any case, all should have suitable insurance and the officiant should not have statutory responsibility for this.

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be the officiant's statutory responsibility

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although I am a humanist celebrant I believe in the right of everyone to choose the option of a cheap and simple legal ceremony with no religious or belief-based content.

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes! In my experience, many couples give up the idea of a humanist ceremony because they cannot afford the double expense of that and a register office civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD4V-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-11 18:42:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

N/A

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not yet married. But we are due to get married July 2021 and want to do so in a meaningful but non religious way. That focuses our wedding on us rather than either God or the Law.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

When we started to look at weddings we had no idea that there was this archaic issue in English and Welsh law. We had (wrongly) assumed that we could have a celebrant marry us. It has caused us great frustration that in this modern age and multicultural Britain that we have only the option of an impersonal legal ceremony or pretending to believe in God. It leaves non religious couples left with only a perfunctory, bureaucratic and impersonal ceremony to be legally married. Whilst religious couples are afforded the luxury of a personal all-in-one ceremony. Or non religious couples have to fake it to make it and have a church wedding - which isn't right for them and undermines the importance of that process for people who do have a faith. It is discriminatory against non religious people and people who do not hold a Christian or Catholic faith. If Northern Ireland can make this happen then there is no excuse for England and Wales!

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, not yet married. Next July 2021. See above answer.  
We want a legally binding personal marriage.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above. Not yet married. But i can image this must cause awful issues for people who find they aren't legally married.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

See above. Not yet married. We want to have the celebrant do a personal ceremony that results in us being legally married.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We have had huge problems registering our intent to marry. We were told to do this a year in advance so first enquired around August 2020. We were told to go away and not get in touch again until January as they were dealing with wedding immediately affected by Covid. This is fair and understandable. We asked again in December and were told to come back in February/March. This is very stressful as that is getting quite close to the wedding date and we want to ensure we have all the paperwork in order to proceed. This seems a very archaic process and could be easily solved if you allow people to do it by post or online. It was also solve this massive Covid induced backlog that registry offices face! We have also been unable to get wedding insurance despite being for July 2021 - no one has been selling since March.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See my previous answer regarding this. I agree completely. There is no need to do it in person. This could be done online or by post. If it needs to be done at frankly. People don't take marriage lightly. They understand the significance of it. Many people don't get married where they live as well - so it makes no sense. We have to register in [REDACTED] but we are marrying in [REDACTED] - this seem unnecessary bureaucracy.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to the first half of the statement but not the second. Why do they need an interview at all? What is the purpose? If it is required then why does it need to be in person? Yes definitely allow registration via post and online. It doesn't need to be in person. The person who marries them will see them on the day! I don't really understand how your suggestion improves the problem if someone still has to interview?

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think there needs to be an interview at all.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yep, totally agree. I don't think there needs to be an interview at all. However, if there does, then remote interview makes so much more sense - more time efficient and more cost effective. Agree in person should be considered in the cases you outline above.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should be able to register from wherever they live so as not to cause unnecessary delay due to outdated bureaucratic purposes. Why punish them for being elsewhere for likely very valid reasons?

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this matter. I don't really see why marriages need to be published these days. But if you're going to do it then online makes sense.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

12 months seems reasonable under normal circumstances. But i would argue that Covid has shown that maybe we need more flexibility in the process. I know of many couples who registered one year in advance (as instructed) only to have to move their wedding (sometimes several times) due to Covid and find that their registration had run out! This causes unnecessary stress for them and for the local registration service.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why does an officiant need to be named at all? Surely as long as they are someone 'approved' to deliver ceremonies then that's fine.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely.

Please share your views below:

What 'other circumstances'?

Yeah, makes sense that someone else can step in if needed but maybe need to expand on what you mean here?

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why shouldn't they? Isn't this whole exercise about making the process easier and more united? Why make it more difficult! Publish the banns wherever you like and get married wherever you like. Why complicate the process?

Let's say you live in Scotland but you are marrying in England for whatever reason. You for real are going to have to schlep over the border to get your banns read? That's daft. Go to your local and do the banns there then get married where you like. Its not the 1800s anymore!

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a non religious couple we won't have banns read - not needed for us. But i don't see why folk can't do that in any church of their choosing - crack on! I agree the war damage thing is pretty outdated.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Again, this is over complicating the matter. if they have to be published at all then do it online - then anyone can look if they so feel the burning desire.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Again, as a non religious person this doesn't apply to me and they already have the jammy deal of getting the all-in-one personal and legal ceremony. However, makes sense that the clergy should be able to see proof that the couple are who they say they are. Don't see why they need to meet them separately unless their is genuine concern for some reason.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Don't they do that in the ceremony?

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

I think if you are of any faith then you should have the option to have your wedding officiated by someone of significance for you - be that a Vicar, Imam, Priest, Rabbi etc. If you are that religious then it should be that you can reflect that.

However, if you do not have a faith (like me) then you should be allowed someone of significance to you to officiate. Otherwise it isn't fair. eg. a family member or friend, or a celebrant.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst i think the marriage process at the moment is way too over complicated and archaic i do agree and acknowledge that there needs to be some level of process behind it. Just reduce the number of hoops to get through before that point.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree. Unless officers are given more freedom. Officers are only allowed to do the bare minimum legal stuff. They don't have the freedom to make the ceremony personal.

there is a very simple solution here - make Celebrants and religious leaders able to legally marry people. Don't keep that only to Vicars and Priests. Give it to others. This will make life so much easier, clear the massive backlog of covid delayed weddings and allow people to have personal ceremonies that reflect their beliefs/views and that is legally binding.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See my above answer. I cannot see why you would need two. See above answer for more detail.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As a non religious person i don't know enough about this to comment. But it sounds like a rational thing to do.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again - see my answer above - this is the idea solution! Make it so Imams, Rabbis etc can marry people. And make it so that Celebrants can marry people or other significant community members (non-religious)

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



I agree to an extent. Yes, make non-religious organisations able to officiate weddings. Agree.

But this is making an assumption that if you do not have a religion then you must have some kind of alternative belief system. This is a big assumption and non necessarily the case. I want my ceremony to reflect and be about me, my partner, our life and our love and commitment to each other. It is not based on some kind of organisational belief system.  
You risk here alienating people further.

Please share your views below:

This is a very poorly worded question and i do not understand what you are asking.

See above answer. What organisations are you referring to here?

I think if you are non religious then you should be able to choose a Celebrant - either a professional carer celebrant or you should be able to nominate a person of significance to you - a family member/friend/community figure - who is given temporary power to officiate the wedding.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, you are making huge assumptions that non religion must mean some kind of other belief? What are you referring to here? Are you assuming that because i am not religious that i go and pray to Saturn or something? I think you risk not achieving the need here.

Are you saying like the rugby club could marry us because they have 20 people 'meet to further their beliefs' about rugby?

You are making huge assumptions about non religious people's beliefs. I believe in the goodness of people, i believe in my relationship with my partner - what club am i supposed to be going to for this? You should not have to be part of an organisation to get married.

Make it so i can nominate a celebrant and have a wedding that is about me and my fiance.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes i agree. I want freedom to nominate who i want to officiate my wedding. But i agree that there need to be moral and legal parameters so that you aren't nominating a murdered or neo-Nazi or something awful like that.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes. I agree.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes i agree but you could solve this by having temporary nominations as well. So let's say for example - i want my friend to officiate my wedding - you could give them a licence of some kind that is valid for a certain period. Then you don't need to worry about a big long list except for people who are regular officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, totally agree. See all my previous answers for more detail on this.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You need to define what 'fit and proper' means before i can comment on this.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with points 1 and 2. I do not agree with point 3. They need to know what to do to run the ceremony and for you to legally rubber stamp it. See my earlier point about temporary officiants.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes agree. Although that's what registrars and celebrants already do. We are having to fork out a fortune to have both services - daylight robbery when you compare to what a church couple has to pay. Though, i do consider that Celebrants should have charge a moderate and reasonable fee so that they can actually run. I'd happily pay one fee - i resent having to pay two.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not fully understand the question. Seems like there are two different questions here. What do you consider a conflict of interest? What does that have to do with fees?

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't really see why they can't do both. If they can do religious stuff for a religious couple and then non religious stuff for a non religious couple then why not? Go for it. As long as they know how to separate and reflect the values of the couple.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Marriage needs to be made much simpler and much more personal. I see that as only helping to make it more dignified and solemn and then it will be about the couple and not about God or the Law.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable and moderate guidance that is not limiting to the ceremony. We are currently trying to get our registrar and celebrant to get along so we can have a personal and legal ceremony and it is a major pain in the a\*\*\*. It's like trying to get squabbling siblings to get along. The registrar is so prohibitive. You need to give them GENTLE guidance that they can build a deeply personal ceremony around.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense. But again, go back to my earlier idea about temporary officiants.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See my earlier answer. I think you could have some who are 'permanent' eg a career celebrant or a vicar. Then you could have temporary officiants for if someone wants a family member/friend/community figure to officiate.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though i think this would only apply to career officiants, not temporary ones.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is overly complicated but in principle, yes.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely! Let people get married how they like, where they like and by who they like.

That could be in a church, with a vicar in a religious ceremony or it could be in a forest, by a friend with a personal ceremony about their commitment to each other (as people not because God or the Law says so)

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, let people do what they want.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if folk want to chuck in a prayer or a hymn, but don't want the full church shindig, then let them.

Please share your views below:

I don't see why someone couldn't include a small religious aspect in a civil ceremony. Even if it's just to keep the granny happy. Example might be - wine and bread or breaking glass underfoot?

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand the question. But 1949 was a while ago.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What?! I didn't even know that was a thing! Yes, definitely repeal that please. Side note, i have definitely been to weddings where they closed the doors - are these not legal weddings?

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

100% agree! Yes! Please! Gardens, beaches, museums, mountains! Anywhere and everywhere! (within reason - not like the middle lane of the M25)

Please share your views below:

No, please do not limit them. Allow people to have them anywhere (as long as the location does not present a real and present danger to life)

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anywhere. Everywhere.

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So, i believe that people should be allowed to get married wherever and however they like. I believe that totally. I find it unfair that currently the law favours christian/catholic couples. However, i do think that we should not undermine the sanctity of religious places for people who are religious.

If you are not religious then i do not think you should risk devaluing a religious site that has real spiritual significance for people.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, the site should be chosen by the couple. The officiant should agree as long as it is safe and reasonable to access. Again, this goes back to my temporary officiant idea - if i got a hiking friend officiated then they could marry us on top of Scafell Pike.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although i would argue that 'dignified' is open to interpretation and means different things to different people.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable and moderate guidance. I agree - not the middle of the M25 or a Burger King toilet. But there should not be too strict a limitations on what is considered 'dignified' as that means different things to different people.

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but it must be optional - not essential.

Please share your views below:

The couple could supply photos/info to the officiant in advance. Again, i think this should be optional and more for awareness rather than a process.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1, 2 and 3 - as long as you make the registration process simpler and more flexible and you have more people officiated.

4 - I don't see why same sex or different sex marriages should be any different. They should be the same.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, what is the mistake on the schedule is not their fault?

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See my earlier answer to q57

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a tricky one. I think there should be something to say you are officially married and this should be clearly communicated. This can affect access to pensions, life insurance, child custody etc etc and i think there needs to be a clear rule on what qualifies you for these things or doesn't.

I hear too many stories of people suffering hardship because they thought they had rights that they do not.

Whatever you decide - communicate it very clearly to avoid that suffering.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I can see that the bureaucracy and limitations of the current marriage law could make it incredibly difficult for people in these circumstances. Make it easier.

### Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, do not make terminally ill people be interviewed! As long as they are of sound mind that they want to marry and are not being taken advantage of then let them get married. If you have to interview them then do it remotely.

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Make it even more flexible.

### Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Make it even more flexible.

### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely agree with all of the above. Especially pertinent with the impact of Covid.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any vessel that is safe.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

But what if it is not a ship?

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within reason.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't see why not. Might be necessary in some circumstances.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if that is their preference amongst alternatives.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within reason.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within reason.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within reason.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

I feel the registration service could have a buffer fund for these minority cases. or if you temporarily appoint someone then there would be no fee.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes, i think current laws do prevent people from getting married as they can't get married in a way that expresses their views.

I do think there would be an increase in marriages because people would be given validation to celebrate their union in a way that is meaningful to them without having to compromise. I think currently many people can feel that 'marriage is not for them' because it does not reflect them. But if we can make it so that their marriage can reflect them then this will encourage people to do it.

More marriage means more stability and fewer issues if one person dies.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. We are getting married July 2021. We are having to pay a large fee for the registrar and another large fee for the Celebrant. This is a huge chunk of our budget. We are having to pay two costs in order to have a ceremony that is both significant to us and legal. We re also having ongoing problems getting them to work together. We still do not have a resolution on this and don't know whether we can have them work together in one ceremony or if we will have to go to registry office before. Which really devalues the act of marriage and makes me feel like a second class citizen when i see how my friends who have married in churches get treated.

2. The cost of our venue is large. We chose it because we liked it. However, had we had the options outlined in this proposal then we may not have done. If the registrar makes us have the legal bit at the registry office before then it will have felt pretty pointless booking a registered venue that then wasn't required.



3. N/A

4. N/A

5. As outlined above - we are having to pay two fees equating to over £1000. This is a huge sum of money compared to the minimal costs a couple pay for a church wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. As outlined above. Clear benefits. Reduced pressure on registrars and registry offices. Huge savings to couples as they will only have to pay one fee instead of two.

2. Again, this would be a huge saving as this would mean couples would not be bound by having to choose approved registered venues that can charge a premium for being registered.

3. I have outlined the issues of this in my previous answer to q86. Please refer to that. Financial costs, emotional costs, frustration that we have booked a venue at great cost that if you approve this - we wouldn't have needed to do! Please make the change for the future.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. I can't answer this question.

2. Availability is scarce. We are having frustrations and stress trying to get the registrar to agree to work with the celebrant. We are frustrated that if they can't play nice together that we will have to have a separate registrar appointment that may not be the same day. So we would not be legally married on the day that we are actually married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I've kind of outlined this already and this is the longest form in the history of forms.

I think there would be massive benefits to all parties.

Less pressure on registrars.

Less cost and more choice to couples.

More people getting married.

More opportunity for places to advertise and operate as wedding venues, improving the economy and likely bringing down the cost of existing registered venues.

Marriage enjoying a renaissance as it is changed to reflect the people of Britain today.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

What law? Please expand.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Less pressure on them to do the notice of marriage.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently make it difficult. The changes would improve things.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently make it difficult. The changes would improve things.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I've outlined this in a previous questions in this section. Please refer to that. Benefits to all.

To sum up:

There's a very easy win here.

Allow people to get married how and where they want - that will lower the costs for couples, increase choice, reduce current differences between religious and non religious people, make their ceremonies personal and reflect them and increase marriage take up and help the economy.

Allow more people to become officiants - reduce pressure and stress on registrars (especially with the impacts of covid), clear covid wedding backlog, allow couples to have ceremonies that reflect them, allow couples to have someone of significance to them marry them.

Simplify the register to marry process - reduce costs, improve efficiency, clear covid backlog and reduce stress on couples and registrars.

There is so much win here. So much opportunity to benefit everyone and make marriage fit for 21st century Britain. Please please please make these changes. I wrote to my MP about this and he was about as much use as a chocolate teapot on the matter. I only wish the changes were going to happen in time for me and my fiance so we could have the wedding we want. Instead of having to fork out for a licensed venue (that if the registrar refuses to play with the celebrant then we won't even need to have booked!) and this mediation between the law and what we want (which really isn't very out there - just a ceremony that is about us and our life together). Thank you.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD4E-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 08:38:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Just to say, I have dictated my answers into my phone. Sometimes the speech recognition goes wrong and although I have checked, you may see something weird but you will get the gist of what I mean!

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Single person that is working as a celebrant for Humanists UK

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All weddings I would have conducted have been postponed.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I say yes but I think the word 'interview' sets up the wrong premise.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I have no real opinion on this.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Difficult issue. You are implying that the interviewer is skilled enough to make a judgement. If so, he/she should be able to do the same remotely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think this should remain in place.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, skill comes into assessment. The couple could effectively sway this. Looking at the question, this appears to be a new provision. If so, I don't really see the necessity for it.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion on this.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Especially if a 12 months gap between registration and event is in place

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Does happen I should be made as smooth as possible

Please share your views below:

Definitely! People can fall out, change their mind, get sick, anything can happen so maximum flexibility is needed

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no opinion on this

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would make life easier

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion about this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Definitely not! they are not impartial and should not have any power over the couple.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Sensible

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Same as reason given in question 16

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely this should be the case. All aspects must be covered

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should stick to the area they know

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why is there any need for more than one person? Perhaps the paperwork should be checked and verified by someone else before the ceremony?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding seems fine to me

Please share your views below:

Hells Angels Chapters???? Residents Associations??? I mean how can you possibly get a list that covers everything? There will be a situation where an organisation provides a test case. Very difficult to put a good answer here. In principle I think a list is good but a minefield to administer.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should avoid bogus organisations

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The law should not exclude religious organisations there should be one set of rules for everybody

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Know the individual should be trained to perform these ceremonies

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this is a good idea as it validates the officiant

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should apply themselves as suggested, not the organisation on the officiant's behalf. I say this because some organisations will not have as effective administrative back up and may take a while to get around to paperwork.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Organisations should check that they're fissions or working properly on a regular basis

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is vital. In my case I am a celebrant for humanists UK. I am about to move to a very remote area of Wales. There should be a well described approach to how this is done. It would be, for instance, expensive to have to travel long distance to comply face-to-face for mandatory training. Therefore an option should be offered enabling a person to train online and with an application like zoom etc.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely agree, it would be hard to have it any other way because we definitely don't do this for the money!

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What's a conflict of interest? Does this mean I couldn't marry my son or daughter? this question needs to be made much clearer

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think a celebrant should be able to perform a wedding ceremony regardless of the route belief being proposed

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do agree that a ceremony should be dignified and that parts of it should be solemn. However an element of light and joy, that could be described as undignified, is often requested by couples. There needs to be flexibility for a couple, so that they receive precisely what they want for a wedding. It should however, have the aforementioned elements included

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You need to define how you monitor. It certainly couldn't be by reviewing the script because that would hold sensitive data. Are you really proposing that you would send a person to watch the ceremony? That would be logistically very difficult presumably.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone who is a celebrant is continually developing their skills. If you're busy, it's extremely difficult to allocate time to undertake compulsory professional development. Celebrants and officiants should be encouraged to professionally develop themselves on a voluntary basis. Personally, I hate being policed by humanists UK, who do a very thorough job and are a superb organisation; but I resent constant notifications telling me that I need to do this or that!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All points seem appropriate

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We specialise in individual ceremonies that are created by the couple and the celebrant combined with a view to completing an enriching and meaningful experience

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely agree

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Please share your views below:

No specific examples. Anything appropriate or requested could be looked at and agreed between the parties

Consultation Question 46:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Definitely agree

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would make life easier

Please share your views below:

No limits should be imposed

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again no limit should be imposed and there is no need for public access

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

The church can be a beautiful place and if a non-religious couple want to marry in a beautiful place it should be allowed. Conversely, if a religious couple want to be married on a cliff top that should be allowed

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant or celebrant, should allow the couple to choose the place and support them in their choice.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Deficient needs to support the couple but should be in a position to confirm that the venue is accessible and safe

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Helpful

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would be helpful

Please share your views below:

The celebrant or officiant should approve it by either personal knowledge or if necessary inspection

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important for historical record

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A basic human right and not problematic

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not now? Agreed

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be witnesses present

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Necessary and agreed

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives freedom for people to live their lives the way they want to and so is agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You are either married or not married there is no grey area!

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have not been involved with anything like this. I think each case should be viewed separately and with a well-trained celebrant or officiant, (also with relevant support) a judgement could be made on whether to go ahead or not. Perhaps a second person's opinion would be sensible?

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A terminal illness is nobody's business other than the person who is suffering from it. This should not be relevant for marriage validity.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Much better all round – agreed

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perfectly sensible as in this world we are now becoming more digital and so this is a very practical method if necessary.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Trying to support the couple by allowing emergency situations to be covered is extremely helpful

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Helpful and agreed

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason why not, agreed

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, interesting that you specify a UK flagged ship only.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

You can never complete this list. But I would say that private yachts, cargo ships that have accommodation for paying passengers, ferries should be on a list amongst others.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not give the name of the officiant as well?

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed because the celebrant or officiant could have died, become sick, just generally be incapacitated. Therefore someone else could take over

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't have any personal experience in this area. I can't see any reason why a religious or nonreligious ceremony could not be conducted at sea

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Actually, I think the schedule should be returned within six months. If it cannot be returned there should be an interview to determine why it wasn't

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This fee should be set out and fair and equal for all

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no difference for charging in this case.If a celebrant or officiant chooses to waive a fee for conducting the ceremony that should be their choice but normally speaking the fee is the fee with no variation

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If that's what they want they should be able to have it simple and straightforward

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A registrar conducting a ceremony should do it in the registry office

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't really know what discretionary services are and I'm not sure how to answer this question

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a case where the registrar could conduct a ceremony outside the registry office.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Again I feel that a fee is a fee regardless of circumstance

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If necessary but should be minimal

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't know if this would increase the number of marriages, but I do feel that the process should be straightforward, simple, and easy to understand. It certainly would be a great help if Humanists could perform legal marriages as we constantly have to apologise for not being able to legalise the marriage.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Most couples that I have worked with accept the cost of a legal registration prior to the cost of a humanist wedding. They come to us for a much more personal and happier service and environment. It seems very wrong to me that in order to remember the happy day the way they want to, their hands are tied with the legal ceremony. Quite a few of my ceremonies have happened without a legal marriage, and as far as I know, they remain that way. I don't know if that is because of cost but it seems fairer to expect people to only pay once

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It seems to me that this whole document is going in completely the right direction. Less redtape, more freedom, adequate checks, good structured recording – I can't see any problems and congratulate you on managing this questionnaire well

It's important that costs are kept to a minimum and that there's not too many hurdles to cross. This set of amendments, if passed, will make life a lot easier for everybody

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I gather there is some form of resentment from registrars regarding allowing celebrants or other officiant's to perform a ceremony. There currently is the perception of a stranglehold from the registrars office. It would be so much better if couples could have flexibility to choose how they want to be married i.e. with government support but not necessarily by government!

I can't comment on availability of registrars but I can say that there are plenty of Humanists looking for work and that we are very good at what we do!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Again more flexibility would be welcome in where when and how you can be married legally in this country. I'm sorry I don't have any data for you but my knowledge of the system is such that these reforms must happen, and happen quickly. This country should be seen to be more progressive and align itself with other forwardthinking (e.g. Scandinavian) countries.

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I'm sorry I can't comment on this as I have no knowledge

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Presumably, expanding the network will lighten the load on local authorities

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Sorry I have no opinion on this other than if people want to come to England to get married that should boost the government coffers and tourism which can't be a bad thing

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I work in the Maritime sector and I know that ship Captains enjoy performing marriages. The only downside I can see would be that too many marriages on board any one cruise might compromise the ship captain's work and that should not ever happen

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can't immediately see any changes to the UK register or the flagging of ships to the UK register in the immediate term

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I don't think there should be any overall change to the existing costs i.e. it shouldn't be any cheaper or any more expensive than it is now

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD4N-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 11:49:00

### About you

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[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Upsetting conversation with couples whose weddings have had to be cancelled or delayed or postponed indefinitely due to restrictions, deaths, illness, isolations, finances, businesses going under due to no income and returning deposits, stressed anxious couples and colleagues across the whole sector.



Depression and sadness.

Not a single wedding in my diary has gone ahead. Some cancellations due to uncertainty, others pending 2021 or 2022.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes agree.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should still be allowed

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No they should also be published online

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to 1.

No to 2.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If these checks have been done prior there should be no need for any additional attendance in person. The Celebrant /officiant should be enabled to provide documentation or recorded evidence that this taken place.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not, this system is not fit for purpose as it does not allow for individuals and equality of beliefs and wishes. Times, availability and venues are restricted and ceremonies are neither personal nor conducted with the compassion and content couples expect in a changing world.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No registration official needs to be present, all Celebrants should be enabled to complete the required legal elements and provide evidence to support that back to the Registration service

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Individual Celebrants should be allowed to be authorised not just those affiliated to an organisation or belief or non-belief system.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That creates inequality, against individuals who prefer not to be part of any belief system but are perfectly competent to deliver this role.

Please share your views below:

All including Independent Ceremony Celebrants

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This discriminates against people where not affiliated to a group and prefer to remain independent

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should, no officiants or organisation that promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality should be included

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes abd also Individual independent Ceremony Celebrants should be able to apply if this is to be fair and equal

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a list including independents not just through fsith/non-faith organisations

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be independent of faith/non faith organisations

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes

2 yes

3. Having done both roles, I feel this training and cpd management could be delivered by a number of bodies not just the Registrar General Office.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance yes, control, no.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be a requirement to be part of an organisation to be nominated.  
There needs to be a separate monitoring body covering individuals and organisations on the same criteria

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Or the "monitoring " body, there should be a compliance body not necessarily the Registration Service as this is a conflict of interest, the work would come there way if s particularly successful competent independent Celebrant was getting all the bookings and impact on the income to the registrar general's income

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a conflict of interest. The registration service already puts barriers in the way of couples choosing Celebrants for their ceremonies , this is open to abuse and monopolies

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would depend on fees costs and impacts across all sectors including the Registration services own staff on a level playing field, including funding/fees

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 yes  
2 yes and include independent Celebrants not part if any group/organisations

3 yes  
4 yes

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely and by whome they choice without restrictions of faith or belief or culture to prevent inequality.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Hymns  
Blessings  
Prayers  
Symbolism  
Crucifix/faith symbols etc

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No restrictions as long as appropriately dignified and safely conducted.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Basic Health and safety and risk assessment competence should be part of an e-learning training package for all officiants

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Or the monitoring body, the Registrar General office is in direct competition to external bodies officiating weddings currently and this option gives them further control and monopoly

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is important for both genealogical reasons and to confirm legal status/identity

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

These ceremonies are only allowed to be officiated by registration officers from the GRO and as such are some of the most sensitive in need and these should be open to all officiants to undertake as they need personal unique ceremonies fit for purpose not the one size fits all in the current system

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is insensitive and time wasting

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However Registration officers should be independent of ceremony officiating duties so there is no conflict of interest

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

On an as need basis

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On an as need basis

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

HM forces vessels

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant needs to be included

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as all other options are freely available and no monopoly or restrictions are given and that couples can have an independent Ceremony Celebrant wedding at the same time or in addition.

Consultation Question 78:



No

Please expand on your answer:

This is prohibiting free expression of where ceremonies can take place. It should not be a fee to the GRO or Lical authority if they are not doing the Ceremony

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no pressure approval process

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not necessary for the physical attendance of a registration official

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no additional fees

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

And for all Ceremony Celebrants independent and organisations

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be an independent body and any fee should apply to all officiants on a like for like basis as should cod, including those employed by the GRO or local authority so its a level playing field.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1 yes

2 yes if not only available to faith/belief groups

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The answers to 1 -5 are cost and unnecessary controls, the financial impacts us crippling there freedom of choice, ideals and beliefs. There us n room for personal preference and wishes and the financial impact prohibits many venues from holding wedding ceremonies

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We live in a 24/7 modern world that needs to move with the times, the current practise in not fit for purpose and the "background" costs involved prohibit many couples celebrating their union in a way they want, how they want and where they want

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

In our local authority and many more couples are routinely put off from having an independent celebrant ceremony and registration officials have told couples they will not be present if an independent is.  
Likewise they have told venues with licences, that they will not officiate in these venues if they allow celebrant led weddings to take place there.  
This has lead to a massive impact on our ability to work, business income and reputation and is completely against what a couple want and request and has no basis in fact or law and has been used to deliberately deter couples from using any service that the registration officials have no control or financial gain from.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The local authority has a massive financial gain and monopoly of wedding income and no accountability.  
There us minimal code for registration officials mostly mentor based training by Local Authority paid wedding officiants on poor hourly rates with huge fees charged to the user has no options but to pay them as they gave the monopoly

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unfair, biased and not fit for purpose.  
A monopoly on income generation to the local authority.  
Makes no use of modern technology advances or the needs of a diverse community and population

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Addresses the above and provides a fairer more equal system providing that these changes are not limited to particular faith grouos and organisations and offer independent Ceremony Celebrants the same options and equal access

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDDC-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 12:40:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I personally wanted to marry in my own garden, but could not and so married in a Registry office.

Professionally, I am approached by couples who want to have bespoke marriage services conducted in a variety of locations but who cannot do so due to the current law. As a consequence, most marry in a registry office as a second best to their preferred choice.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

COVID drastically increased the enquiries I had for weddings and there was total confusion around what is and isn't possible according to the law.

There were many disappointed couples, who seeing a window for marriage open up, we're not able to secure the time of a registrar.

Allowing outdoor weddings would potentially alleviate some social distancing issues too, should it take a while to find a vaccine for COVID.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think as long as they are resident in England or Wales, where they give notice should not matter.

Online would be far better all round.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes far more sense and would negate some of the confusion around process.

##### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I think that as long as all of the paperwork is in order, it should be possible to get married as soon as you want to. Although, I am not entirely familiar with the number of 'illegal marriages' in the UK each year.

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This makes sense to me and would again allow for progression should we be faced with a different virus or pandemic in the future.

The world has embraced online, come join us :)

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think it should be possible.

##### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is necessary and assists with planning and booking of marriage services.

##### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it would be more beneficial to allow the couple to notify the venue and officiant not later than \*\*\*\* days before the wedding so that the officiant may be verified.

This gives the couple flexibility and opportunity to plan their wedding once they have the schedule, and not have to do everything before.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. There should always be a plan b.

Please share your views below:

I think that the substitute officiant, as long as verified, should be able to act under any circumstances. I can't see the logic in restricting it as long as both officiants are registered.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure I totally understand this sufficiently to answer.

But if it's saying that if you give notice in Scotland or Ireland you can't get married in England or Wales, I'm not sure I agree. As long as it's a recognised means for registering intention, it should not matter where it is done.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published the same way as all other intention is published. Online.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This should be optional if insufficient information is produced, or if suspicions are raised.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, always both of the couple, but not necessarily together.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You have to have a set of procedures and guidelines. Totally expected.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think the registration officer should be allowed to witness any form of marriage as long as certain criteria are met, the wording or style of ceremony is irrelevant.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that as the signing of the register itself is now online, this should be feasible.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Everyone should have to undergo the same training and certification, whatever that may be.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is a recognised organisation and they are able to demonstrate that they can train to the required standard, then absolutely.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think the organisation has to have a belief system.

There will be a part of the population who would not want a defined religious or non religious service. There should be the ability to recognise those people too with organisations that recognise people have no particular belief either way.

Please share your views below:

Religious  
Humanist  
Other

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be regulated to have credibility.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And they should demonstrate that they have achieved a recognised qualification or level of training that is recognised in law.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the organisation itself has achieved a standard recognised in law or by the Government.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely!

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is all about choice. If couples would like to work with an officiant who provides a bespoke service which provides a great deal more than a basic marriage act, then the officiant should be able to be rewarded for that time and effort.

If the couple simply want a plain and simple exchange of vows, no frills, then they have the option to choose an officiant who will provide that at a price they are comfortable with.

There could be a standardised/minimum fee for a marriage service as there is now (basic marriage licence) but as registry offices offer today, alternative packages incur additional costs.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand a conflict of interests?

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think someone should be affiliated with one organisation only at any one time.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I'm so far as it is a legally binding agreement between two people and that certain criteria should be met and witnessed. No more than that.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. As long as the officiant conducts the legal portion of their marriage in accordance with their training and registration protocol, the service structure should be completely up to the couple.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That or any other regulatory body that the Government recognises.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, but as long as they pay their fees and are regularly assessed according to any changes in law.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should not have to be defined.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand this, sorry.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be allowed anywhere, without restriction.



## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be no limits at all.

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

We should let people marry wherever they want to, venue permitting!

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe. I can see what this might be useful. Save any h&s requirement by the officiant?

Please share your views below:

The venue could have pre approval which negates the officiant from any h&s obligation.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think a marriage should be witnessed and all parties should somehow 'sign' to say that the marriage took place. I'm not sure how else the act would have any credibility?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Everyone should have a right to be married as long as they are able to meet the obligations of declaration and consent as required

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But that should be facilitated in a manner, different to that of someone who has not got a terminal illness.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure if the implications here

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

But the time limit should be reasonable.

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A minimum fee perhaps?

### Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think a review and change to the marriage law would definitely increase the number of weddings in the UK, but more importantly would more appropriately meet the needs and desires of individuals to be able to have their relationship recognised in law, in a manner which suits their own needs, beliefs and ideals.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think more importantly, the changes will allow people choice. The current system is too restrictive.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Everyone in the wedding industry will benefit from a change to the law.

Venues who cannot currently obtain a licence will be able to benefit from the change.

So many people will be able to make a living if e change is made because far more weddings will take place at a greater variety of venues of all sizes.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I think there should be a minimum recognised cost for a legal marriage and issue of certificates as there is today and any other costs should be down to the officiant. To recognise the time, effort, service and materials that they may incorporate into their service.

The couple are able to choose their officiant based on the overall service offered, over and above the minimum charge.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD45-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 13:16:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Email:

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In order to confirm that it will not be a 'marriage of convenience'.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

A remote interview would be acceptable with the provision for a compulsory in-person interview if concerns are raised.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Acceptable if both are relevant nationals or exempt from immigration control.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A substitute should only be allowed if there are exceptional circumstances.

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be able to freely choose their officiant.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Celebrant organizations should be included.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:



Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any location should be allowed

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The celebrant body to which the officiant is attached should give training and guidance on this matter.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I see no issue with any of the above.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All parties should be present at the signing.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe that the current law discourages couples from getting married, however the choice of where, how and who by should be free to the couple, to take into account their own beliefs and interests.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The additional cost of having a separate wedding - effectively two weddings is an issue for many couples. The current regulations don't allow the freedom many couples desire.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples should not be limited by additional cost as to where they hold their ceremony.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Greater freedom of venues not having to be approved will result in additional work and growth for businesses, venues and celebrants.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD4U-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 15:44:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Extremely disruptive and hugely disappointing. Also costly and financially adverse.



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe we should be free to marry anywhere in the UK if both couples are UK residents.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I believe giving notice in this way is important.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I think a week is more than adequate.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Given the current circumstances, I feel there should be this provision.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think this makes a lot of sense

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A very good proportion of people would have access to this information if it was available online

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why this shouldn't be the case.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should be necessary

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a back up. So much is invested in the day.

Please share your views below:

No view on this

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the interest of fairness to all.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This should be sufficient

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This makes a lot of sense

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This would keep yhings uniform across the board

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No view

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Uniformity across the board

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is restrictive and so does not allow a couple to express their mutual love in a way that suites to them and in a way that becomes more meaningful for the couple.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only one is needed for a ceremony in church

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the interest of fairness

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A good number of people are not religious

Please share your views below:

A celebrant should be given this authority

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is not fair

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I completely concur

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the intersts of diversity and fairness

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes a lot of sense

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the interest of fairness and diversity

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Conflict of interests

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe a declaration of mutual consent is all that should be required. The rest should be left to the couple.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be dealt with independently

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consent to marry should be all that is needed

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think should be the couple's choice

Please share your views below:

This should be the couple's choice

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the couple's choice. The authority should be embodied in the officiant not the venue.

Please share your views below:

No limits

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the interests of diversity

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be the couple's choice

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safely first.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be external advice

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do believe there must be a public declaration by definition.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It prevents and discourages

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD4G-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 16:01:08

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not able to do any Wedding Ceremonies since March 2020, all postponed due to Covid crisis.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Show officiant name only

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

UK

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A civil wedding should be legally allowed by an officiant who is fully trained, this should also be a Celebrant as well as a Registrar

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It can also be fine by a Celebrant

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

People getting married should not have to have religious beliefs, mainly love each other

Please share your views below:

Names of professional Celebrant training bodies

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants should not have to meet up in person regularly, they are in touch with each other regularly online through their training

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

General information only e.g. solemn, both parties free to marry

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Allowed where bridal party wish it to be

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Bridal party

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In whatever language they use on a daily basis and English

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People should have the personal choice of registrar or clergy or celebrant

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should also include Officiant name

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not the full ceremony cost, just a set fee for the couple to answer the 2 legal questions

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As a celebrant I provide a wedding ceremony tailored to the wishes of the couple held in the place they wish. It is their special day and a celebration of their love. As a celebrant not being allowed to do the 2 legal questions, has caused upset for a lot of my couples as they have had to have a short statutory service with a registrar as well. This they have not wanted to do.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD42-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 18:15:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanist UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The weddings I conduct in England and Wales are not legally recognised

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I always explain to the couple that this is not a legal ceremony

No

Please expand on your answer:

A strong majority of couples for whom I conduct weddings in England and Wales choose also to have a civil marriage, in order to gain legal recognition. I estimate that this is true of over 90% of weddings currently conducted by Humanists UK celebrants.

Couples who have humanist weddings with me do so because they want a humanist ceremony that matches their deepest-held beliefs and values, conducted by a celebrant who shares those beliefs and values, in the location that is most meaningful to them. They cannot have this through any form of marriage that is legally recognised. They don't want to have a civil marriage, but are forced to do so because humanist weddings aren't legally recognised.

Furthermore, there are undoubtedly many more couples who have only a civil marriage but would prefer to have a humanist marriage, if they were legally recognised. They cannot afford the expense of having two ceremonies, so they opt to have only the civil marriage. That this is the case can be seen from how popular humanist marriages have become in jurisdictions where they are legally recognised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The barrier is that humanist weddings are not legally recognised. This means that humanist couples, unlike their religious counterparts, cannot have a legally recognised marriage conducted by an officiant who is guaranteed (or even likely) to share their beliefs. The available legally recognised ceremony cannot fully express their humanist beliefs and values. And the restrictions on locations mean that many cannot have a legally binding marriage in the location that is most meaningful to them.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The frequently changing coronavirus regulations have been quite disruptive for couples wishing to have all types of wedding, but I would submit that they have without doubt been more disruptive for humanist couples than most.

This is not only because of the need to hold two separate ceremonies, in order to have a humanist wedding while still ending up legally married. That means any disruption caused by the changing rules means couples have often had to replan both ceremonies, when other couples only have had to replan one.

But it has also been more disruptive for humanist couples because humanist weddings have, at times, faced further restrictions than legally recognised marriages.

I have personally had 16 couples had to replan.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any reason to maintain the requirement to have a registrar at some religious marriages. Their presence also leads to unhelpful confusion as to whether such religious marriages are actually civil marriages.

As to paragraphs 5.58-9, it should of course be the case that civil registrars are debarred from officiating at humanist marriages, as well as religious ones.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

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As to paragraphs 5.58-9, it should of course be the case that civil registrars are debarred from officiating at humanist marriages, as well as religious ones.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that this is broadly the right approach, as you support a move away from a law that bases recognition of marriages exclusively on the buildings in which they take place, which discriminates against those citizens whose beliefs accord with groups (including us) that don't have places of worship. Nomination by recognised responsible organisations (religious bodies, Humanists UK, etc.) is appropriate. With that said, I wouldn't want to do away with a role for buildings entirely, as we are concerned about the ease with which bodies purporting to be religion or belief groups could be established in order to gain the power for officiants to conduct marriages in any location – which could lead to de facto commercial operators springing up. We explain further in our notes on question 25.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have objected strongly to this proposed definition. Instead we think that the law should simply refer to those beliefs that are relevantly protected under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights – as these, after all, are the beliefs that the UK has a legal duty to extend recognition to.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly disagree with these minimal proposed qualifications, which I worry could lead to reckless commercialisation at the hands of groups that purport to be aligned to some religion or belief but in fact are not especially interested in or motivated by their religion or belief and instead are primarily motivated by commercial interests. I believe that this is a substantial risk even given the proposals about restricting profit and gain. I think that such problems arise when such a low bar to authorisation is coupled with the ability to perform legally recognised marriages in any location. Therefore in what follows we suggest that there should be two routes to recognition – a local route, and a national route. The former would be similar to the existing route upon which most religious groups rely,<sup>5</sup> and confer similar benefits; while the latter would confer the additional benefit of allowing the group to marry people anywhere they like, but would have some higher safeguards in place that could be expected to rule out the establishment of supposedly 'religion

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is the right approach, in the first instance, but you do not think that the organisations should alone be relied on – the registrar general should have the power to refuse an application, if they have reason to think someone nominated is not fit and proper – rather than just have the power to remove accreditation from an officiant, if they are subsequently found in some way to be not fit or proper (as is proposed in question 38).

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You could say that Humanists UK celebrants currently operate under this system in Northern Ireland and so do Humanist Society Scotland (HSS) celebrants in Scotland. In both jurisdictions, this system works well. It hasn't prevented the celebrants from charging a reasonable fee for their work, reflecting the time and effort put into crafting a humanist ceremony, but does stop profiteering, including people charging exorbitant fees or trying to profit off ancillary activities by exploiting their position as officiants.

The only comments we suggest you might add to this are, first, that not all types of ceremony cost the same to provide; second, that costs vary across the country; but, third, that such a rule is not in itself enough to prevent commercialisation (see our answer to question 25).

On the first point: humanist ceremonies are entirely bespoke to each couple, reflecting perfectly who they are, their personal histories, and their families. Celebrants spend extensive time getting to know the couple, so that when the celebrant marries them, they are being married by someone whom they will often consider a friend, often staying in touch long after the ceremony. Similarly, the celebrant will familiarise

themselves with the venue in advance of the ceremony, so that it can be best utilised in proceedings, which often includes holding a rehearsal. Humanist celebrants do all of these things because what is intrinsic to humanist ceremonies is making the ceremony as meaningful as possible to the couple and their loved ones. This flows from the core humanist belief that the meaning in our lives is not divinely inspired but something that each of us creates for ourself. The celebrant's job is therefore to help the couple construct the most personally meaningful ceremony possible, and that means something that is highly personalised to who they are.

That stands in contrast to some other types of ceremony, where, for example, a religion may dictate that the ceremony follows some standard pattern. Registrars similarly usually follow fairly standard scripts, with less variation from ceremony to ceremony, and often don't meet the couple they're marrying before the day of the wedding. The result is that humanist celebrants generally put a lot more time into each ceremony than other officiants do. They typically spend about 30-50 hours per ceremony – in other words, a whole working week. Others may spend only 5-6 hours, if that. (It is worth noting that Humanists UK celebrants don't generally charge more for weekend weddings, unlike registrars. This reflects the fact that celebrants have typically worked on one ceremony over a long period, mainly in the working week.)

And, as time deserves recompense, this means that Humanists UK celebrants might charge higher fees than those solemnising other types of wedding. This is not because they are profiting, but is just a reflection that such ceremonies involve much more work.

On the second point: the cost of living varies around the UK, and is higher in some parts of England and Wales than it is in Scotland and Northern Ireland. As a result, Humanists UK's recommended fee band for weddings runs somewhat higher than (say) the average fee of around £450 that HSS quotes on its website.<sup>15</sup>

Finally, I think it's essential that guidance is produced for officiants on how to comply with the profit and gain rule. We understand that such guidance has been very helpful for HSS in Scotland.

#### Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per question 29, I do not think that commercial celebrants should gain legal recognition for their marriages, so this question should not arise. However, as per that answer, not binding independent officiants by the rule against profit provides no benefit to couples and in fact opens them to exploitation. And the 'conflict of interest' rule that is proposed instead is extremely weak – almost worthless even if it was enforceable, which is doubtful.

#### Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel very strongly that this proposal has been too loosely drawn. It has failed to properly consider what is significant about civil, religious, and humanist ceremonies, or the proper role of the state in providing marriages. It has also failed to properly consider the motives of individuals for choosing what content they wish to have in their ceremonies, and how their motivation might be a more appropriate way to decide where the line should be drawn. It has failed to consider the employment law issues that could arise from requiring registrars to conduct marriages with certain types of religious content. Conversely, it has failed to consider what analogous restrictions should exist on the inclusion of humanist content in civil weddings. Finally, all of these concerns are amplified when it comes to the somewhat more profit-driven behaviour of commercial celebrants conducting civil marriages.

I acknowledge the special case of couples of mixed beliefs who might wish to include some reference to each other's tradition in their ceremony, but say that the proposals (below) about permitted content would adequately meet their needs.

Considering those points in turn:

The unique role of civil marriage: First, as a general principle, the state should not act in a way that constitutes an expression of a particular religion or belief, but should stay neutral on such matters. It should simply not get involved in performances – including civil weddings under this new proposal – that involve religion or belief, but leave them to individuals and religious or belief groups. Such neutrality is essential, in order for the state to be seen to be treating different religious and belief groups equally, and to stop it from, in some form, 'establishing' one or more religions. The requirement for state neutrality in matters of religion and belief is clearly established in human rights case law and underlies the case, given state recognition of religious marriages, for equal recognition of humanist marriages.

Not only that but many religious groups do not wish the state to encroach on matters of faith and creed. In Christianity that is expressed through both the concept of 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's', and the two Kingdoms doctrine. We, similarly, would be concerned if state officials purported to be able to include humanist elements in their marriage ceremonies. Such officials are not trained to include such aspects, and registrars' beliefs cannot be guaranteed to be humanist. We know that the Church of England shares similar concerns – it says as much in paragraph 6.91.

Civil marriage serves a distinct purpose in its own right: it is a form of marriage available for those who don't want to get married in a way that expresses a particular religion or belief. Many couples do not feel strongly about religion or belief, as evidenced by the data the Law Commission cites in paragraph 6.82, and it stands to reason that many such couples exist.

Please share your views below:

The role of motives in deciding what content should or should not be allowed: The key question really is not whether this or that material should be included in a civil ceremony but the couple's motivation for including or excluding such content. It is certainly silly and sometimes quite arbitrary when a registrar refuses to include 'Jerusalem' in a couple's wedding ceremony, because of its religious references, when the couple wanted it there because they are rugby fans. But the answer to this isn't to allow religious content, just so long as it doesn't come to dominate or overwhelm. The answer is to include content that may include religious language or themes, but only if it is being included for secular reasons – for example, cultural or sentimental purposes. Such an approach would keep the ceremony secular.

This aligns with the approach Humanists UK takes with regard to religious content in humanist ceremonies. The usages for humanist ceremonies require 'no acts of religious worship' and the Celebrant Handbook says 'Celebrants are expected to hold a client or family meeting and to ensure that it is as positive and as productive as possible by: ...Dealing with requests for religious poetry, hymns and prayers – advising that these cannot be accommodated within a humanist ceremony unless the context is particularly fitting and can be signalled appropriately...' Further, Humanists UK's practice note on religion in humanist ceremonies specifies that 'Our ceremonies are non-religious but we recognise that there are aspects of religious reference embedded in our culture and day-to-day experiences. For example, certain hymns can remind people of their youth or even of their favourite rugby team. We are happy to include this sort of content where it helps to reflect the [parties], but not as an act of worship.'

Humanist ceremonies often also allow a quiet moment of reflection so that those who want to pray can do so, while others can take the time to contemplate the significance of the proceedings that they are a part of. This is particularly appreciated by couples with religious family members.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As humanist weddings are arranged in whatever location is most meaningful and personally significant to the couple, many of them take place in the parties' or their family's private homes, including their gardens. Many people can think of nothing better than getting married in their family garden, a place that may have many cherished memories.

If the open doors requirement is maintained and humanist marriages were legally recognised, then it would be very difficult for couples to have weddings in such locations. A significant risk of unwelcome intruders and/or theft might arise. This is particularly true if the law required the location of the wedding to be published in advance through an online notice system. (Several cases have been reported of 'freebooters' masquerading as mourners in order to attend receptions after funerals and partake of the refreshments.)

Given the scarcity of legitimate objections to parties getting married being made at the ceremony itself, and the fact that an online notice system will increase the possibility of objections being made in advance, we think the open doors system should be abandoned.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, albeit with the caveats outlined in your answers to subsequent questions, and the proposal made in response to question 25 that religion and belief groups authorised under our proposed local route should still be confined to certain buildings or their curtilages, as a safeguard against commercial operators springing up for profit and gain.

An excellent explanation of the importance of location to humanist weddings can be found in a witness statement from Zena Birch, then the Chair of the Humanist Ceremonies Board, in the Harrison case. In that statement, Zena wrote:

The desire for a humanist marriage represents a manifestation of humanist beliefs because most couples wish to marry in a way that conforms to and celebrates their own belief system. Moreover, humanists have a particular commitment to equality under the law and to the protection of human rights. Seeking parity with religious groups is, in itself, a manifestation of humanism.

Perhaps I might illustrate these points from my own experience as a celebrant. I often work with my couples from anywhere between nine months to a year and a half (far longer than even the most dedicated civil registrar could possibly manage), and in that time I work with them to discover what getting married actually means to them. Why they are choosing – when they may already live together or even have a family together – to take this extra step. As such, when a humanist couple decides that they do want to get married it is especially important to them that they do so with a celebrant and in an environment they believe in. They want a celebrant who shares their deepest beliefs, and is therefore able to best reflect them in the ceremony that is produced. They don't want their names simply slotted into a pre-written, applicable-to-all script that could very easily be A.N. Others' in half an hour's time... They want something crafted to perfectly reflect who they are as a couple – that is, unique just to them and no-one else. That bespokeness – and the time, love, and attention to detail necessary to produce it – is an intrinsic manifestation of their humanism. Words mean something to them, and I as a celebrant and all my humanist celebrant colleagues work with each of our individual couples to carefully craft those words with them.

With all this forethought something that very rarely gets chosen offhandedly is where my couples wish to hold their ceremony. Over the years I have had the privilege to be welcomed into some extraordinary spaces and what most of them have in common is that the locations themselves hold meaning and relevance to the couple (and all of the locations cited below are actual locations where I have conducted ceremonies). Sometimes the choice has a charmingly romantic perspective that adds a tangible reality to the story and intentions we are witnessing: The desire for a humanist marriage represents

a manifestation of humanist beliefs because most couples wish to marry in a way that conforms to and celebrates their own belief system. Moreover, humanists have a particular commitment to equality under the law and to the protection of human rights. Seeking parity with religious groups is, in itself, a manifestation of humanism.

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With all this forethought something that very rarely gets chosen offhandedly is where my couples wish to hold their ceremony. Over the years I have had the privilege to be welcomed into some extraordinary spaces and what most of them have in common is that the locations themselves hold meaning and relevance to the couple (and all of the locations cited below are actual locations where I have conducted ceremonies). Sometimes the choice has a charmingly romantic perspective that adds a tangible reality to the story and intentions we are witnessing:

□ in the London square where they bumped into one another for the first time in over 40 years as a GP leaving her surgery stepped into the path of a London commuter who happened to be her first true love – they rekindled a love they had shared since secondary school and were able to have their ceremony right in the spot they bumped into each other;

□ in the historical alcove in a field behind the school where my couple shared their first kiss;  
on the cliff top where the groom proposed.<sup>20</sup>

Other locations hold a different kind of emotional poignancy – for example, a beach where the bride had previously scattered her dad's ashes.

Locations are so often chosen not simply to illuminate or highlight the importance of their actions, but also to feel akin with their environment – and a very physical and historical link to important people in their lives who may no longer be with them – a wedding day really brings into acute focus who isn't there as well as who is. As a humanist celebrant I should be helping a couple incorporate the things that are important to them in every way I can. An anonymous room, no matter how lovely or prettily dressed, cannot replace the specialness of somewhere that holds personal importance. And like a place of worship with the devout religious couple, these locations hold an equal import to my couples. A place to signify something other than the common or garden. A place befitting of a rite of passage. And marriage is a rite of passage.

I hope this illustrates how intrinsic locations often are to humanist marriages – a core part of the couple's ability to express who they are and what makes them special, and so a core part of the manifestation of each couple's humanism.

I did a Humanist ceremony for a couple who were paramedics and had met whilst debriefing on a local beach. This had been after attending a major RTC, and they held the wedding on that beach after gaining permission for the LA.

Please share your views below:

I think that all of these locations are places where it should be possible to get married, as all of them are locations which could, for varying personal reasons, be the most personally meaningful location to a couple for their wedding (even if rarely in the second and third cases), and therefore an intrinsic manifestation of their humanism.

A very large proportion of humanist weddings happen outdoors or in private homes.

It is less common for couples to want to get married on inland waters or in the air, but it is easy to imagine that a couple who work on or in the water, live on a houseboat, or work on aeroplanes, could wish to get married in one of these locations. I can't see why this shouldn't be possible, provided that two caveats be met.

The first caveat is that the health and safety of all involved can be assured.

The second is that the dignity of the marriage can be maintained. We could see that some such weddings could easily become undignified, for example, 'party boats', or weddings in hot air balloons. We are not sure that hard rules should be drawn to forbid such weddings, but special attention certainly needs to be paid to the motives of couples wanting to have weddings on water or in the air, in deciding whether they should be permitted. This could perhaps be part of the role of the registrar when undertaking the civil preliminaries, as well as of the officiant in their engagement with the couple (supported by GRO guidance).

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that it shouldn't be possible for civil or non-religious belief weddings to take place in places of worship. It would cloud the secular or non-religious nature of such ceremonies if they were to occur in such locations. The consultation paper makes an interesting point when it observes that such venues would be able to restrict their use even without a specific prohibition. But this would equally leave such venues able to permit civil or non-religious belief weddings, maybe for financial reasons, when as a matter of principle this shouldn't be possible.

It would equivalently make sense to exclude the possibility of civil or religious weddings taking place in specifically humanist buildings, which at present essentially means Conway Hall in Holborn.

But more generally it is unclear what is meant when the consultation here describes 'religious venues' and 'non-religious belief venues'. The terms need defining more precisely than this. If 'non-religious belief venue' means anywhere where a humanist marriage might lawfully take place, then that would obviously create a big problem in that there is likely to be a significant overlap with locations where civil marriages in particular take place. It should be possible for religious and belief marriages to occur in secular venues, even if civil marriages also occur there. (This would require that there be nothing parallel to the present rules about approved premises, whereby they may not have any 'recent or continuing connection with any religion...';<sup>21</sup> and, by extension, with any non-religious belief.)

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure why this question, uniquely, has no 'Other' option. If there was such an option we would suggest you chose it. In the absence of it, we suggest you choose neither 'Yes' nor 'No'.

I find this question very unclear, as nowhere is it spelled out what is actually meant by officiants being 'responsible' for deciding whether the location for the wedding should be approved – in particular, in terms of what the consequences would be, if they get it wrong.

If the Commission's meaning is merely that officiants should have the right to decline to conduct a ceremony at a location to which they have a reasonable objection on grounds of safety or dignity, you might say you agree. However, there must be serious doubts about a system in which the officiant takes on legal responsibility in respect of the location. See further on the next question.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with regard to dignity, since this is intrinsic to the nature of the ceremony, and of humanist therefore some guidance on this would be welcome,

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems a sensible suggestion to you so far as safety is concerned, albeit the process would be effectively automatic with premises that are routinely available for hire (hotels and other such venues) and really needed only for the types of venue where the owner or proprietor would not expect to take responsibility – e.g., public access countryside. We refer to our response to question 52.

I also do not think the local authority should attempt assessments of dignity, except in cases where the venue is clearly undignified (like a strip club): that is more appropriately done by the officiant, and you could explain that you will want to continue to make your own assessments of suitability and dignity, perhaps setting more demanding standards.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, that there will always be rare couples who wish to get married with the least possible fuss and expense.

While humanist weddings are not legally recognised, I strongly believe that a cheap civil wedding option must remain available. A large majority of couples currently having a humanist wedding also have a civil marriage in order to gain legal recognition, in spite of not wanting to do so.

In fact, legislation needs to go beyond merely prescribing a low-fee option. What follows is motivated by the findings of chapter six of 'Any Lawful Impediment?' A report of the All-Party Parliamentary Humanist Group's inquiry into the legal recognition of humanist marriage in England and Wales, 22 as outlined in your response to question 1(3) above – namely, to prevent registrars from making such ceremonies hard to access, for reasons that seem to us to be driven by profit and gain, but have the result of preventing others from being able to manifest their beliefs without a financial penalty. It should be prescribed that: Registrars must make known the availability of the minimum-fee option, wherever they advertise that other options are available;

☐ Registrars must make such ceremonies generally available, across all days of the week, and in a wider range of registration offices (perhaps even all);

☐ Registrars must not be able to restrict who attends such a ceremony, beyond what physical space allows, or what niceties such ceremonies might contain, beyond what is necessary for the punctual running of the ceremony.

The need for such legislation would be less acute were humanist marriages legally recognised.

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly believe that this would be a good thing. It is clear that registrars' fee structures are currently engineered to lead to profit for the local authority – indeed, during one of the Commission's online consultation sessions concern was expressed by a registrar that the reforms might interfere with the cross-subsidisation by weddings of the rest of the registration service. Some civil marriage fees, for example at the weekend, currently run to well over £1,000. This is particularly objectionable, considering the de facto monopoly registrars currently enjoy, in terms of options for legally recognised marriages for non-religious couples. Removing such profit-making would de-commercialise the marriage industry. It would also reduce incentives for commercial behaviour for other types of officiant, by ensuring that registrars offer relatively low-cost options. And it would create parity between registrars and religion or belief officiants, who would similarly be bound by profit and gain rules. (It seems to us that it would be unfair to bind religion and belief officiants in this way, but not have any limits on registrars.)

With that said, I recognise that not all civil marriages will cost the same. Some couples will wish to have more elaborate civil marriages, that take registrars longer both to prepare for and to officiate at, or that involve additional local authority staff or all-inclusive catering and other services. Similarly, marriages outside of standard office hours could be ones that legitimately incur a higher (albeit still prescribed) hourly rate than those during the standard working week, reflecting the less desirable working hours. So I would not wish to see overly strict limits on how much registrars charge – just some reasonable limits.

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

From my own experience I personally know that some couples do not get married due to the lack of legal recognition of humanist marriages which is in the very least despicable.

From my own experience some couples give up the idea of a humanist ceremony because they cannot afford the double expense of that and a register office marriage.



It is worth noting the sea-change that has occurred in Scotland, following legal recognition there, as to evidence of demand for humanist weddings, and how the current law prevents couples from doing so.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I believe that significant additional reforms are needed, in order to make cheap register office weddings available to couples, particularly if humanist marriages continue to not be legally recognised.

With that said, if humanist weddings are legally recognised it would represent a substantial saving to humanist couples, who would no longer have to pay to have two weddings – a humanist wedding they want, and a civil marriage they don't want but are obliged to have to gain legal recognition; or, alternatively, to be able to have the humanist marriage they prefer rather than a civil marriage, when they are unable to afford both. These savings would for many couples run to hundreds of pounds, potentially even up to £800 if they wish to have their civil marriage on the same (weekend) day as their humanist wedding – which many humanist couples do so as to avoid questions from their loved ones about what day is their 'real' wedding day and when they are, in fact, married – or indeed their own simple desire to be legally married on the same day as the ceremony they actually want. Suffice to say, these factors also apply to savings in terms of time and administrative burden.

The proposals around opening up a wider range of venues to marriages, in particular private homes and outdoors public places, also present essential savings for humanist couples. You might say that many of your couples have strong motivations to see such locations as the most meaningful for their weddings – motivations that are intrinsic to their humanism. Therefore enabling such marriages to be legally recognised is essential to us. It would again free couples from needing to have two separate ceremonies – one they actually want, in the place most meaningful to them, and one in some less desired location whose only purpose is to confer legal recognition.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD4Q-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 21:46:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married legally.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is an arbitrary detail which makes little sense.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds like a perfectly sensible suggestion.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Somewhat arbitrary, but it seems a reasonable suggestion.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Only if the pandemic does not allow face to face meetings. I would prefer there to be a requirement for a face to face.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience of this situation so cannot comment.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is similar to reading of banns, and I think it is a good idea.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems a reasonable timeframe.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this sounds like a reasonable approach.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is obviously a sensible suggestion.

Please share your views below:

I'm not clear as to what I'm being asked to comment on.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems to be an archaic rule.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I don't think I have any view on this item.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It seems to be a sensible proposal.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Definitely. It's important to see both parties to check any suggestion of coercion or such like.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I am atheist so don't believe Anglican preliminaries should be a requirement.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are basic important details of the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think religious weddings are well catered for.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is absolutely no need for more than one officiant.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't have strong feelings about this.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I didn't completely understand the question

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems sensible.

Please share your views below:

I can't think of any.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It allows agency

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It is clear that any organisation that is unlawful should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I believe it should be possible to nominate named individuals.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential that officiants be held accountable.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants are professional people and this would emphasise the fact.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Slightly bothered by the judgemental tone but I agree they should be checked for suitability.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I feel strongly that the officiant should be professionally trained.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand the question

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They will be people running a professional business and should have no restrictions.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sorry, don't understand the question.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a solemn occasion and should be treated as such.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidelines only.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems the only sensible solution.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible suggestion.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Continuing assessment always a good idea.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what time limit means.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to keep up training and development.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not much to add. All that sounds sensible.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a basic requirement.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives maximum amount of flexibility.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives maximum flexibility.

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be unnecessary.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be able to be married in private if they so wish.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason not to.

Please share your views below:

No limitations would be best.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Maximum flexibility is best.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't feel strongly about these particular issues.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As professionals, this should be part of the job.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All part of the job of the officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance would be welcome.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense.

Please share your views below:

A simple form filling exercise by the officiant.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure whether occupations is relevant or necessary.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



No feelings either way.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as security can be guaranteed.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are reasonable suggestions.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the wedding has taken place, it should not be voided.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These seem reasonable suggestions.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason to disagree.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because they have never been officially married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No time limit required.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would render the marriage potentially void.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None that I am aware of.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Time limits may have to be looked into.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no hierarchy in the system.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In case of further pandemics.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason not to.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason not to.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't know anything about vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are recognised officiants.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes no sense to do otherwise.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage would be void.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not as far as I know.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there needs to be a time limit.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a fair way to proceed.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

This is a question of compassion.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If that's what they want.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A fair way to proceed.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A fair way to proceed.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm assuming this means travelling and not the cost of writing the ceremony.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what they could be though.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems a fair way to proceed.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

This seems the most fair.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have no evidence apart from anecdotal. Several people I know would get married if they could choose who did it and where they did it.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD4F-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-12 22:17:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQE-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-13 15:14:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Personal Yachts and boats

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQ8-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-13 15:42:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am an independent celebrant that trained with UKSoC.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This seems a helpful idea especially for people who may have difficulty travelling or live in more rural areas.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. England and Wales are great destinations for weddings and this should be continued to aid the wedding industry.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They can be published online too.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, in the same way a registrar meets couples.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, in the same way that couples meet with registrars to make sure that all is above board.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The various independent celebrant organisations.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would lead to greater choice for couples. I think it would also aid in filtering out those officiants that are not serious about the process as they may be less likely to follow through on the administration process.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the officiants should be able to make a living from officiating at weddings, but not abuse their position by increasing their fees at more popular times.

Perhaps a set fee for officiating (standardised by the government) + fee for writing and performing the ceremony?

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q32

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

To give couples greater choice, would it not be useful if officiants/celebrants have flexibility so they step in and help other organisations in case of an emergency?

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance, not strict rules.

It should be up to the officiant as to how the ceremony is held in accordance with their couple's requests while maintaining the dignity and solemnity of the concept of marriage.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

On the whole yes, especially as weddings aren't events couples really want to repeat or have ruined.

However, I think there should be a mechanism for couples/venues to report officiants if the nominating organisation fails to act.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

As long as there are appropriate health and safety management and risk management for each venue, it seems a very exciting idea.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think each venue should have the authority to veto a ceremony from taking place on its property in a case by case basis.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be useful to have some guidelines for making this decision.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The venue should be able to apply for a pre-approval licence as they currently apply for a wedding licence from the General Register Office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A lower cost for housebound people

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQN-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-13 17:35:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The weddings that I conduct in England are not legally recognised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I always ensure that the couple know that the wedding does not confer legal recognition.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Most couples for whom I conduct marriages in England choose also to have a civil marriage in order to gain legal recognition.

They do this because they want a Humanist wedding that matches their beliefs and values, conducted by a Celebrant who shares those beliefs and values in a location that is meaningful to them.

They cannot do this through any other form of marriage that is legally recognised, and are generally disappointed that they need to go through the process of a Civil marriage as well, which they often see as simply a paperwork exercise at additional cost.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have known couples who have chosen church weddings rather than Humanist weddings even though they do not have any religious beliefs - it is simply to allow the marriage to be legal.

Also couples who want a Humanist ceremony due to their beliefs but cannot afford 2 ceremonies, so have had to choose a Civil ceremony and been disappointed.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The main barrier is that Humanist weddings are not legally recognised, and restriction on locations means that many cannot have legally binding marriages in places that are meaningful to them.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Many weddings have been postponed until next year, due to frequently changing Covid restrictions, causing huge upset for many couples.

It has been extra challenging for Humanist weddings as they have had to sort out 2 separate ceremonies at a time when civil ceremonies have been very booked up, so added stress and disappointment. Everything would have been simpler if Humanist ceremonies were already legally recognised.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is always important to have cover for unavoidable circumstances.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes, I don't see why a registrar is needed at some religious marriages, as this leads to confusion.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I object to this definition. I think that the law should simply refer to those beliefs that are relevantly protected under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with these minimal proposed qualifications, which may lead to reckless commercialisation.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is the right approach, but I do not think that the organisations should alone be relied on - the registrar general should have the power to refuse an application if they have reason to think that someone nominated is not fit and proper.  
All officiants should have up to date DBS checks.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanist Celebrants in Northern Ireland and Scotland already operate under this scheme.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

all places, provided that Health and Safety can be assured, and the dignity of marriage can be maintained.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear what is meant by religious venues and non religious belief venues.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There will always be people who want to get married with least fuss and expense.

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

there has been huge demand for Humanist weddings in Scotland since the legalisation there, and we believe the same would be true in England.

The current law definitely stops some people having Humanist weddings as they will need an extra civil ceremony to become legally married.

I have also known of non religious couples choosing to get married in Church, simply as it will enable them to be legally married, which does not seem right.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We know that people from England already travel to Scotland, N Ireland and Jersey for Humanist weddings that are legally recognised - please allow this to happen in England.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I believe that allowing legal Humanist weddings would reduce costs for couples as they do not need to go through the additional process and cost of a civil wedding.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQW-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-13 20:20:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We had a church wedding where the vicar allowed us to have live music as well as our choice of reading. My husband also had an entrance with his family followed by me shortly after. If we had used a registrar this would not have been possible.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am a wedding Celebrant and Toastmaster and this year I have not been able to be part of any weddings as we had to postpone them all because of COVID but also because of the numbers expected at the wedding.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure why this was ever a requirement

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Having the options will give couples choice which is important. I am a little unsure as to the purpose of the separate in-person interview but if it is to help rule out sham marriages for example then it is a good thing.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

The shorter time will allow for couples to have less of a run up to the wedding and less gap

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is a good idea to use the technology that is available and yes to then having the separate interview is there is a concern

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should continue to be possible to allow for the variants there may be in terms of location

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I see no harm in it being 12 months but I also wonder if a shorter period would be more appropriate so the wedding happens sooner

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I suppose this depends if they have chosen an officiant yet or not

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the couple can show that they have them then I do not believe it should stop them

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

this is a good thing as could also weed out any concerns about sham marriages or other issues

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes both should attend

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrants should also be able to officiate at civil weddings

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that some of the religious bodies may not have individuals who have a good understanding of the English language and the law that surrounds marriage so there would need to be criteria put in place for those that may be nominated to have a certain level of language and understanding of the law.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

if the organisation promotes unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality then the answer should be No

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

It should be named individuals who have a good understanding of the English Language and marriage law

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants will charge according to a standard fee and mileage according to their experience and knowledge. A Celebrant who has additional knowledge of a particular culture or knows the language may charge some more for the additional skills being provided if asked to by the couple

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There may be Independent Celebrants who are part of an organisation and actually being nominated through them could help the organisation meet the needs of its members.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

there should be a process by where if there is a complaint an individual should be authorised to deal with the complaint and that could be the organisation that nominated them but there should also be a process to appeal

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I as an Independent Celebrant have included some parts from the Asian Culture including the garlands, milni, sindhoor, mangalsutra, phera, ganesh puja, but it is done with a modern interpretation that is appropriate for life today.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

no limits - give the couples choice

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should be who has approved venues so far and there should be a list available for couples to see on the website

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have not had to conduct any of these yet but I would hope the law states to do what is required to make it happen legally.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this may be an issue if the terminal illness is such that they only have less than a week

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

any ships where there are working officers

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant if known is important to give

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

do not know

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure what the additional services are

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

the change to having the location the couples want, their choice of an officiant, the ability to have an independent celebrant who can create a bespoke and personalised ceremony, including the legal requirements is a real positive step forward.

I believe this will impact on the cost of having one less event

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

no data

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe I have responded to some of this above but would also like to say that for many of us solopreneurs this would be a positive step for our businesses.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

it opens up the opportunity for choice which is a good thing

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

it will allow for officers to marry and not have to wait

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

there may be an initial rise in costs to all but once things settle and become the norm so will the costs

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMJ-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-14 11:16:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Brethren's Meeting Hall, [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

Authorised Person for marriages

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have conducted 2 marriage ceremonies during the pandemic. It was very different, but what struck me most was the current need to come to a registered building for the ceremony. As it had to be simple and with very limited numbers present, it would have been simpler and more natural to have conducted it in a home setting.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The present requirement doesn't serve any useful purpose in confirming the legality of the persons to marry and can cause major problems. In one recent marriage I conducted, one party, a French resident, had to travel to England and stay with a friend to fulfill this requirement. Due to changing Covid restrictions during this time he only just managed to return to France without having to face a further 14 days quarantine, all to register at an address that provided no particular information about him.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes it easier for parties from another country to arrange.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

That should be sufficient for a challenge to be raised.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree as long as suitable safeguards are in place.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This seems reasonable as long as the person can be clearly identified and vouched for.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a public committal and normally this would be recognised by public display.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should provide for unexpected situations.



Please share your views below:

Yes, if all parties are happy with this arrangement

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The parties getting married should be free to specify an officiant from their own church.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants could be nominated by a governing body either at local level or national level.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The sanctity of marriage is a central tenet of our beliefs.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

There would need to be power for the law to exclude organisations that would promote illegal or harmful arrangements.

There should be provision that Christian organisations and their nominated officiants should not be under a legal obligation to carry out a marriage ceremony that would be against their beliefs, even if it would be approved by law. e.g. same-sex marriage.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a central register by a Government body seems essential and the GRO performs this service well.

I would add that I have found the GRO helpful where advice has been needed in the past.

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would not charge for my services. I regard it as an honour and a service to the church

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Making the procedure simpler and easier should in no way detract from the solemn and binding nature of the commitment of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should ensure that the law is fully complied with, but not restrict the officiant as to the church's own suggestions as to the service.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No longer necessary with correct checks beforehand and could provide an opportunity for an ill-disposed person to cause trouble.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The venue does not need to be specified/registered.

Controls may need to be suggested to uphold the dignity and seriousness of the ceremony.

The freedom to be married at home would be very welcome and very meaningful for many. It would have been very uesful during the Covid restrictions.

Please share your views below:

see above

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

to minimise writing at the time, it would be helpful if these details could be added before the actual ceremony.

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to rigorous tests of the security arrangements proposed.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Any move that encourages the commitment that marriage involves is welcome, especially in the responsibility to provide a stable, loving, secure environment for children to grow up in and thrive.

Marriage is the foundation stone of moral order in the world.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The freedom to marry at home in a simple ceremony would relieve couples of needless expense.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In both situations there would be a saving in costs in the proposals, especially the removal of the obligation for overseas residents to be resident at an English or Welsh address for 7 days.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

3. The removal of the registered location obligation would save on the costs of preparing and opening a large church building for the ceremony. We were very conscious of this for ceremonies performed during the Covid restrictions where a large hall had to be brought out of closure for a 20minute ceremony.

5. The couples in the above instances would have much preferred to have been married in the home setting.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQ3-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-14 11:56:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a Celebrant this completely ruined my business

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's an old fashioned concept with no relevance to a modern wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The online notice is obvious - not entirely sure that an in-person interview should be necessary

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Remotely

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes remotely

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should be possible

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No reason for weddings to fall under the category of "religion"

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with point 2 but point 1 is moot

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It is clear that it works in New Zealand and Australia. Why should the Government be the decider of love and Marriage? No wedding officiants should represent the choices of the couple

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on what form the 'guidance' takes. Most officiants are very serious. If in the form of 'standards' - then -yes

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this is

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Anywhere should be legal

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

- Registrar

- Certification process

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

all

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think it is more about personal choice than numbers

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It's ridiculous to have 2 ceremonies - it should be regulated, standardised but free to choose

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No opinion on savings - but freedom to choose

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQ2-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-14 14:54:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Patrick Nash

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Woolf Institute and St Edmunds College, Cambridge

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Some kind of prescribed training leading to certification for officiants is undoubtedly necessary. There is a risk, however, that if the training is elaborate a parasitical industry (private or bureaucratic) will grow up around it. This will present a particular hurdle for independent officiants who may not have prior experience or the institutional support of a religious organisation [para. 3.51]. If they have to attend time-consuming courses and/or travel to specific facilities, this requirement risks becoming unduly lengthy, expensive and off-putting for officiant and couple alike. Given the straightforwardness of the officiant's duties, the basic training should be little more than an online questionnaire test applicable to every type of officiant for record-keeping purposes. Religious groups can then design and run their own training programmes to meet their own specific requirements if they wish. The point is to ensure that every officiant knows what the law requires of them and that they appear in state records.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The proposals drastically reduce the red tape around wedding venues. They may not go far enough. This is because the concept of venue pre-approval is retained in shrunken form via the need for the officiant to consider whether the venue is safe and dignified [para. 7.5]. The need for the officiant to ascertain whether the venue is dignified seems redundant given that people have been married in ASDAs and zoos in the recent past under existing regulations. Likewise, the issue of the venue's safety can be left to rest on contract and occupier's liability in tort. Rather than making officiants assess the venues (or pre-approved lists of them) and incur additional expenses, it would more efficient to simply let the couple agree with the officiant on the location and have no additional assessment requirements or guidance whatever. Plain old common sense, word of mouth and online reviews can do the rest.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Under the new proposals [paras. 8.14-8.18] 'the couple would be legally responsible to return the signed schedule to the registration service'. Some religious organisations have requested that they be solely responsible for this. What matters above all is that the marriage ends up being registered, by whom is of secondary importance. A better solution would be to make the officiant and the couple jointly responsible so that the scope for neglect or deception by any one of them is minimised. This would ensure that the pressures to fulfil the duty are mutually reinforcing: the parties can hold the officiant to account if he promises and fails to register their marriage, and the officiant (especially a respected religious leader) can lean on the couple to do it themselves or delegate the task to him or her. The point is to ensure that someone does it properly so that the couple are shielded from the consequences of failure.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The suggested criminal offence in para. 10.170 is necessary and well defined. However, it does not go far enough to protect parties from ignorance or deception given the seriousness of the consequences resulting from a defective marriage. The remedy is relatively straightforward. If the couple desire a non-qualifying ceremony/religious-only marriage, the law should make sure they know full well what they are getting into and the consequences that flow from it. This can be achieved by adapting the pre-nuptial recognition requirements set out in *Radmacher (formerly Granatino) (Respondent) v Granatino (Appellant)* [2010] UKSC 42 into a tortious duty of care. Thus, discharge his/her duty of care and proceed with a non-qualifying ceremony, the celebrant must be satisfied that:

- (i) the parties are entering this form of relationship voluntarily, without undue pressure and be informed of its implications;
- (ii) both parties have actually taken independent legal advice from a qualified English lawyer.

Should the celebrant fail to discharge this duty, and/or lack the proof that they have done so, he or she would incur the following liabilities. First, a new statutory tort of negligently conducting a non-qualifying ceremony should be created, punishable with a heavy fixed fine. Second, the celebrant would also be made liable for both parties' costs in the event of any post-relationship-breakdown legal advice and litigation. Third, the celebrant would be made liable for the amount the claimant would likely have received had the marriage been subject to divorce or a decree of nullity. These intimidating consequences will serve as a deterrent against malpractice and bring even more ceremonies within the law. They will also ensure that parties opting out of the law are fully and provably aware of their situation.

The proposals suggest that bigamy is less common and 'much less of an issue' than it was in the past [para. 4.76]. This may be true of the offence as it stands, but the wrong it seeks to counter is enjoying something of a resurgence in the form of de facto polygamy. Polygamous (usually polygynous) relationships are sometimes portrayed simply as matters of individual choice [para. 10.90]. While the parties may well be fully informed and consent to such a union, there is so much more at stake than this. Polygamy is an emergent threat to society. This does not mean that the parties to or any particular union of this kind are dangerous or wicked. What it means is that when this practice becomes widespread in a population it generates problems that are not visible on an individual scale. The Office for National Statistics has confirmed that there are no estimates for the number of polygamous marriages subsisting in England Wales. The true scale of the practice remains unknown but it is understood to be 'enormous' and 'rife' in Muslim communities, with one dated guess suggesting that there are up to 20,000 de facto polygamous (presumably polygynous) marriages in Britain. Dame Louise Casey identified polygamy as being of particular concern to the government as 'the existence of matchmaking sites like "secondwife.com" and a number of accusations, anecdotes and assertions encountered throughout our engagement imply a common acceptance of polygamy – which impact negatively on women (and their children) who have not had a legal marriage'. In Shia communities, the related practice of temporary and transactional 'pleasure marriages' (known as *mut'a* or *sigheh*, they are often overseen by clerics) is controversial but not uncommon, with one enthusiast stating that 'I really like temporary marriage and I want to have lots of wives.' This form of informal religious marriage is associated with deception, manipulation and the sexual exploitation of women, with a recent BBC documentary linking it to a booming sex trade in young Iraqi girls.

Such practices are not a problem merely because they offend liberal and feminist principles. Political objections aside, polygamy is known to have negative consequences both for the family and wider society. Systematic literature reviews have found that polygamy was associated with 'more mental health problems, social problems and lower academic achievement for children and adolescents' as well as 'marital conflict, marital distress, father absence and financial stress'. More broadly, polygamy is linked to severe educational, economic and gender inequality; domestic violence and FGM; violent intra-sex competition over sparse marriage partners; and ultimately state fragility, organised group violence, social unrest and civil war. In short, 'institutionalized monogamous marriage provides greater net benefits for society at large by reducing social problems that are inherent in polygynous societies'. The solution is again relatively straightforward: ensuring that most Muslim marriages are legally recognised and expanding the offence of bigamy to catch both formal and informal polygamous marriages as well those who conduct them. There is clear precedent for something like this in the context of forced marriage: s121(4) Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies to any 'religious or civil ceremony of marriage (whether or not legally binding)'.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDGA-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-14 15:39:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Christian Concern

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an outdated requirement.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Simplifies the process.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This allows a bit more time for any concerns to be investigated.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be required to take place in person so that the possibility of coercion or sham marriage can be properly assessed. There is considerable scope for impersonation or coercion with remote interviews.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should be possible to give notice outside England and Wales in these circumstances to simplify the process.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is simpler and more accessible for most people.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time limit and 12 months is a reasonable limit to have, after which it should be able to be renewed if required.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be identified so that he can be questioned if there are any concerns.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in such unavoidable circumstances.

Please share your views below:

A substitute should only be used in extraordinary circumstances.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will simplify the process.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Simplifies the process.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Publishing banns only in the church where the wedding is to take place will simplify the process.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Clergy should have the power to call for documentary evidence and be trained in how to check it.

Clergy should be required to meet with each of the couple separately to check that there is no coercion and that each person fully understands what they are doing.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both of the couple should be required to declare that there is no impediment to their marriage as this emphasises the solemnity and legal formality of the process.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican church is the established church which represents the national religion. As such, Anglican ceremonies should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries as this makes clear that this is the established church.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is important to ensure the solemnity and legal points are complied with.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They are not ministers of a religion so they should only officiate at civil weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Since the Church of England is the established church, forming the national religion, this makes sense.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The difficulty is that a group of 20 is quite small and people could form a group with bizarre or obscene beliefs which undermine the nature and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This sounds fine on the surface, but with proposals for hate crimes and hate speech that could criminalise reading certain portions of the Bible or the Qur'an, there may need to be some allowance made for beliefs based on established religious texts, and these two texts in particular.

Furthermore, proposals to criminalise so-called 'conversion therapy' could criminalise prayer for someone who wants to move away from same-sex attraction. An action which many orthodox believers may wish to support.

In these two ways, prohibiting organisations which promote unlawful purposes could end up not allowing any orthodox Jewish, Christian, or Muslim groups to conduct marriages.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The problem is that an unusual religious organisation could nominate all officials and this could bring marriage in to disrepute or undermine the solemnity of marriage.

To safeguard against this, it would be better for only named individuals to be nominated.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The state has an interest in ensuring that officiants are fit and proper persons and therefore the state should do its own check in this regard.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Training should be carried out and tested online so as to maximise convenience and minimise costs.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that someone carries the responsibility for upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage and that there should be penalties for failing to uphold these things. Otherwise the dignity and solemnity of marriage will be undermined or ridiculed.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The state has its own interest in ensuring that officiants are monitored and that they maintain their duties and responsibilities.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is very important for expression of consent to form a significant part of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing that the essentials in Question 42 are complied with, this allows for maximum freedom of religion.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Civil ceremonies should be allowed to contain religious content such as Bible or other readings.

Please share your views below:

Readings from the Bible or other established religious texts.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an outdated provision.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People naturally want to have weddings in beautiful locations. They should be allowed to do so. Religious weddings should be allowed to take place outside of religious buildings so that celebrants can have a religious wedding in another location if they so wish. There are some legitimate concerns that the use of some locations could undermine the dignity and solemnity of the marriage ceremony. The officiant is to be held responsible for ensuring that the location does uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage and some guidance should be provided by the government as to what that entails.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

As above, celebrants should be able to choose a location providing that the location does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The officiant is responsible for ensuring this and should be provided with guidance about this.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should be allowed to be a relatively private affair, particularly in the case of celebrities.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious organisations should be allowed to insist that only religious ceremonies are carried out in their venues. Indeed, canon law would prohibit Church of England churches being used for any other purpose. Churches should not be placed at risk of being sued for discrimination for refusing a non-religious ceremony in the venue, or vice-versa. This can only be achieved by prohibiting the practice in law.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes the officiant should have primary responsibility, but the state has a legitimate interest in ensuring that the location does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The state should provide guidance to officiants about what kinds of locations would not qualify as upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The government should provide some guidance about this for officiants.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The provision of such guidance will help to ensure that locations are safe and dignified and to be clear whether a venue breached these requirements.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be helpful for all involved.

Please share your views below:

The government should be responsible for it, and it should be hosted on a website so that it is publicly available and searchable by location.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may make sense to make the officiant and the couple jointly responsible for ensuring that the marriage is registered so that there is mutual accountability and responsibility, making it more likely that the marriage does get registered properly.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will simplify the procedure.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Rendering the marriage void in these cases adds some protection for partners who may have been misled about the nature of the ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Rendering the marriage valid in these instances is good protection for the couple, especially in cases where one partner may have been misled.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consent and understanding is key, and a prerequisite for a valid marriage.

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The presumption that the couple is married in such cases is a useful protection for women in cases of abandonment.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a helpful protection against either partner being misled about the legal status of the ceremony.

There should also be a similar offence for a celebrant of conducting a non-qualifying marriage ceremony. In such cases, the celebrant should be punished with a heavy fixed fine, and made liable for both parties costs in the event of relationship breakdown, so that they are compensated as if they had been validly married. This will act as a strong deterrent to conducting non-qualifying ceremonies which are prevalent in some religious communities.

This will also act to prevent polygamy since if all such weddings are registered it will be clear that the offence of polygamy has been committed. In some cases women have been unaware that they are entering into a polygamous marriage. Estimates range up to 20,000 polygamous marriages in Muslim communities, enabled because their marriages were unregistered. <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-men-with-many-wives/episode-guide/> Polygamy is damaging to society and creates inequalities and disadvantages as well as making women vulnerable to domestic abuse.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Neither the preliminaries or especially not the ceremony should be conducted remotely.

A marriage is a physical union of two people. It requires an in-person ceremony. If people wish to wear protective garments they should be able to do so, but the couple should not wear masks as their identity needs to be clear for all to see.

Preliminaries check that each partner is willingly entering into the marriage. This cannot be properly done remotely. It should be done in person even in times of emergency. Provision should be made for marriages and preliminaries to continue in times of emergency, albeit with fewer guests.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a case for making the fee for this higher so as to encourage the use of approved locations.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

These proposals generally simplify the laws around marriage and should therefore make it somewhat easier to get married. We welcome plans to simplify the process and regulations around marriage ceremonies.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

These proposals should simplify and reduce the costs of getting married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQ4-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-14 18:39:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The Humanists UK weddings I have conducted in England are not legally recognised.

I have conducted one ceremony in Scotland which was legally recognised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have always advised the couples in England that the humanist ceremony is not legally recognised. In almost all cases, this was confirming what the couples already knew.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The overwhelming majority of couples chose to have a civil marriage in order to gain legal recognition.

Without exception, the couples have chosen a humanist ceremony because it matches their own convictions and values and have chosen me, as a Humanists UK celebrant, to conduct it because I share and am committed to those humanists beliefs. Often, too, they arrange to hold the ceremony in a location which is meaningful to them. They have the civil marriage because they are required to do so.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Occasionally, guests discuss the legal implications of a humanist marriage after the ceremony. I aim to explain the current situation as objectively as possible.

Often, the humanist ceremonies contain a section about humanist principles and weddings simply as an explanation.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The main barrier is quite simple: humanist couples are unable to have a legally recognised marriage conducted by someone who shares their beliefs and is committed to humanism. (For example, I am a Schools Volunteer and represent humanism, when invited, by local schools.)

The humanist ceremonies convey the couples' humanist beliefs explicitly, in opening sections, readings, music and choices of words, and implicitly, in the uniqueness and individuality of both form and content, throughout the ceremony.

Some ceremonies have been held in venues with great personal meaning to the couple, for example mountain sides, river banks, domestic gardens as well as special clubs, pubs or hotels.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Unfortunately, I can't comment. I recently turned [REDACTED] and felt it advisable to withdraw temporarily from conducting wedding ceremonies in the spring and summer.

I have some planned for 2021, but they are all working within the parameters of current parameters.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Support using appropriate IT.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Support continuing current practice.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This practice exists in my local Humanists UK celebrant network and is appreciated by couples.

Please share your views below:

No. Minimise opportunities for abuse or mistakes.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Not qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Not qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever is the best way of ensuring that Anglican and other ceremonies are the same.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Confirms appropriateness of officiant.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The advancement of its belief system (e.g. humanism) should be the only or, at the least, main purpose of the organisation.

Shouldn't the definition ensure that the belief systems are convincing and appropriate in a democratic society. Otherwise, couldn't, say, Flat Earthers claim to officiate at Flat Earth Ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Attempt to produce a definition which self-evidently disqualifies excluded groups.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be exploited for commercial gain.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This raises tricky questions. Most obviously, until relatively recently, atheism was considered immoral or contrary to public policy. Yet nowadays the work of many prominent atheists - for example, George Eliot - is mainstream in cultural and literary studies and celebrated by the state. Careful wording would be needed.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Ensure parity of Anglican and other organisations.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a risk of encouraging commercial celebrants whose motives are simply determined by the market place.

Most importantly, weddings described as 'humanists' should only be conducted by celebrants who have demonstrated commitment to humanist principles, undergone a professional accredited training and undertake continuous professional development.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Tricky.

There should be some method of scrutinising independent officiant's' applications and insisting on minimal professional standards and qualifications, e.g. up to date DBS checks.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Another tricky area.

Who checks that the non-religious belief organisations ensuring that nominated officiants are 'fit and proper persons?'

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A good basic principle.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Arguably, commercial celebrants should not gain legal recognition for their marriages since they are only doing it for the money. Since this is the case, their amoral practice should be controlled to ensure there is no financial exploitation. The 'conflict of interest' argument is irrelevant: by definition, the only interest of independent officiants is money, not the belief system that the ceremony is espousing.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strong endorsement: an excellent reform.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Particularly important!

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Nominal retirement age (e.g. 70) and consequent legal processes, like driving licences.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Considered and appropriate.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not qualified to comment.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Most importantly, the use of religious content in a civil ceremony could be construed as an act of worship.

Including religious content in civil ceremonies compromises the civil officiant.

Humanists UK celebrants have considerable experience of negotiating religious elements with a wider cultural meaning.

Please share your views below:

Only if it is carefully contextualised and/or has a wider cultural significance (e.g. 'Jerusalem' to sports fans).



Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important.

In my experience, outdoor ceremonies held in places of special significance for the couple have always been particularly significant and moving experiences.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

outdoors: often significant for couples, e.g. near mountain top proposal sites;  
inland waters: often significant, e.g. Lake District cruiser (again, site of proposal);  
in the air; outside my experience, but could be valid;  
in private homes: important inclusion for practical as well as emotional reasons.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Humanist weddings are inappropriate in commissioned religious venues. At humanist funerals in crematoria, chapel attendants remove religious artefacts on request. This couldn't happen in a religious venue. (I did conduct one ceremony in a decommissioned church - with all artefacts long removed - and this was perfectly appropriate.)

2. Religious weddings are inappropriate in secular venues.

3. As 1 above.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Uncertain of officiant role here. For example, is the officiant responsible for checking H & S regulations?

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Tricky.

Safety. The officiant's role should, at most, be advisory. In practice, I have always held a 'rehearsal' before the ceremony, during which all risks are considered and, I hope, eliminated.

Dignified. The main part of the ceremony is very dignified. There is no reason why this cannot be the case in an apparently informal setting. For example, is a rear garden inappropriate because it is 'undignified.'

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Useful for H & S.

Please share your views below:

1. Owner has main responsibility.
2. Outside my expertise. However, I have always checked venues before conducting ceremonies.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Outside my experience.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Outside my experience. Feel unqualified to comment.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Outside my experience.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Outside my experience.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Outside my experience,

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Outside my experience.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Outside my experience.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have never been approached. Probably very limited demand: potentially very expensive.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Outside my experience.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Outside my experience, but seems a compassionate practice.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some couples might prefer a simple and potentially inexpensive ceremony.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Might there be compassionate grounds for subsidy?

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Some couples have expressed surprise that a humanist ceremony requires an additional register office marriage to make it legal and have not proceeded with the ceremony. Some may have decided to reject the bespoke humanist ceremony and simply accept the registry ceremony. Some may have decided not to get married. It is difficult to know for certain.
2. It is likely that removing the double expense for a humanist ceremony would increase demand for humanist marriages.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. See 5 below.
2. Unfair.
3. Outside my knowledge.
4. Variable.
5. An unfair and occasionally prohibitive additional cost.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Provision of an inexpensive , small scale ceremony could be appreciated by some couples.

2. This is an important benefit of the proposed scheme. The legal demand for 2 ceremonies is an unfair financial burden - and extra, wasted time and effort.

3. I would stress that without exception the couples have always regarded the humanist wedding as the real wedding and the register office as a legal formality. This view has also been expressed by family members and close friends who have attended both ceremonies.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Outside my knowledge.

2. Couples who have held both ceremonies at the same venue on the same day (sometimes consecutively) have resented having to accommodate a ceremony which they didn't want in the first place.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Generally, I would support offering couples as wide a range of venues as possible. In particular, some historic buildings could be very suitable locations.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Outside my knowledge.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Outside my knowledge.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In general, liberalising the laws on humanist marriages and appropriate venues is likely to lead to more weddings taking place in England and Wales.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Variable, depending on specifics of other jurisdictions.

2. Definitely increase the number of couples travelling to England and Wales from other jurisdictions.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Outside my experience.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Outside my experience.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Most importantly, the proposals will benefit couples wishing to have humanist ceremonies since they will not have to pay for an unwanted register office ceremony.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDNE-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 10:32:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanist Society Scotland

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

In the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic marriage ceremonies in Scotland were unable to proceed, unless due to exceptional circumstances. Since resuming, marriage ceremonies have been subject to a number of restrictions which have changed the way ceremonies are conducted.

Humanist Society Scotland celebrants have been flexible in their approach and supported couples through the changing landscape. Although many couples have been unable to have the ceremony they originally planned, mostly due to the restriction on number of guests, they have been able to marry in a ceremony that is meaningful and authentically reflects their beliefs and values, led by someone who shares those beliefs and values.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It is difficult to take a position without understanding the parameters of the 'in person interview'.

It would seem counter intuitive to remove the requirement for couples to reside within England & Wales for 7 days prior to the marriage, to then replace with a requirement to attend an 'in-person interview' at least 7 days prior to the marriage.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews may reduce barriers for non resident resident couples, but there should be no compromise to the identification and management of sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes we believe it should continue to be possible

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is important to minimise the stress for the couple of any situation where the named officiant is unexpectedly unable to act. Allowing a substitute officiant enables unexpected situations to be managed more effectively.

Consideration should be given to restricting the substitution to officiants from the same religious or belief body.



Please share your views below:

It is our opinion that substitute officiants should be used in exceptional circumstances. Although any legislation should be flexible for exceptional circumstances such as serious illness etc, it should create a culture where officiants are seen as interchangeable. The value of the relationship between couple and officiant should not be diluted.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is our opinion that registration officers provide the legal function of marriage for those who do not wish to marry in a way reflecting any particular beliefs and values.

Those couples wishing to marry in a ceremony which celebrates and reflects their beliefs and values should be able to do so without the dilution of a registration officer who may not share those beliefs and values.

Additional complexity may arise if registration officers may actively oppose the beliefs and values of religions or philosophies they are being asked to celebrate as part of a couple's marriage.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is our opinion that non-religious belief, and religious bodies should nominate officiants for authorisation. Those bodies should have demonstrated their legitimacy and reliability before being considered suitable to nominate.

Individuals should not be able to self-nominate.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Please share your views below:

It is our view that it should be clear that organisations that do not represent, uphold and advance particular philosophical beliefs should not be considered appropriate for solemnising marriage.

Those that claim to be 'non-religious belief' organisations but have no demonstrable function beyond the provision of marriage ceremonies, should not be considered appropriate for solemnising marriage.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We believe any group able to nominate officiants should have a demonstrable purpose beyond the provision of marriage ceremonies.

The suggested 20 members seems wholly inadequate. We suggest that some consideration should also be given to the history and length of existence of a religious or belief body. We do not believe that an organisation set up to provide marriage ceremonies as their first area of work should be considered suitable.

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It is our opinion that no organisation who promotes purposes that are unlawful should be considered appropriate to officiate at weddings.

The issue of morality is complex, and to exclude any group on that basis may be problematic. There are many different interpretations of morality across our cultures, religions and belief systems.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst independent officiants may have their own beliefs, they do not, as a collective represent any religious or belief group.

A landscape which enables couples to have a marriage ceremony which reflects their beliefs and values, led by someone who shares those beliefs and values, and has the option of a civil marriage, does not require the addition of independent officiants.

We strongly oppose the proposition that independent officiants be able to apply to be authorised.

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be clear guidance on what constitutes 'fit and proper' to enable organisations to manage this aspect of nomination. There must also be robust and consistent processes for dealing with organisations fail to manage this requirement.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst independent officiants may have their own beliefs, they do not, as a collective represent any religious or belief group.

A landscape which enables couples to have a marriage ceremony which reflects their beliefs and values, led by someone who shares those beliefs and values, and has the option of a civil marriage, does not require the addition of independent officiants.

We strongly oppose the proposition that independent officiants be able to apply to be authorised.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be clear guidance on what constitutes 'business' and 'profits'. There must also be robust and consistent processes for dealing with organisations who fail to manage this requirement.

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We strongly oppose the proposition that independent officiants be able to apply to be authorised.

This proposition creates a two tier system; religious and belief organisations must not prioritise 'business', but independent celebrants are free to operate commercially.

This proposition will create a commercial landscape, and those religious and belief bodies who are legitimately working to represent and advance their beliefs and values will be at a disadvantage. Independent celebrants operating commercially and offering 'pick 'n' mix' ceremonies, with no legitimate connection to a religious or belief worldview will be damaging to religious and belief organisations.

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We strongly oppose the proposition that independent officiants be able to apply to be authorised.

Marriage is an important milestone for couples. Those who wish to be married in a religious or belief ceremony to reflect their beliefs and values should be able to do so with the knowledge that their officiant is not diluting or offending their beliefs and values through a lack of sincerity.

An officiant who does not commit to one religious or belief body, cannot legitimately and meaningfully represent the belief and values of that body, thus posing some risk to couples.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be clear guidance on what constitutes 'dignity and solemnity of marriage'. There must also be robust and consistent processes for dealing with organisations that fail to manage this requirement.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is our opinion that GRO should issue guidance to religious and belief bodies. It should then be the responsibility of those bodies to disseminate to their officiants.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that the responsibility for monitoring officiants and requesting withdrawal of authorisation should lie with the nominating organisation. However, organisations must have clear guidance on 'fit and proper'.

GRO must take an overarching responsibility and ensure there are clear and consistent processes for dealing with those organisations that fail in their duty to maintain standards such as 'fit and proper'.

GRO may want to consider if it is appropriate for an officiant who has had authorisation removed can seek nomination with an alternative body.

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that the GRO should have the power to de-authorise nominated officiants.

We also believe that the GRO should have the power to remove the authority for bodies to nominate officiants if they fail in their duties, or fail to meet any test of legitimacy as a religious or belief body.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

We strongly oppose the proposition that independent officiants be able to apply to be authorised.

This would seem to be a labour intensive and costly process to provide a service to the public that would be unnecessary if religious and non religious bodies, as well as civil registrars were available.

In proposing that GRO monitor Independent Celebrants there is the potential to disadvantage religious and belief bodies. Most religious and belief bodies will be eligible for charitable status. The proposals outlined would place responsibility on bodies to manage and monitor celebrants, costing charitable resources. However, those operating commercially would face no restrictions on their income and incur no costs or expectation that their profits be used for monitoring.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is our opinion that there should be time limits to enable GRO to consider the history of an organisation and whether their officiants should be authorised for a further period.

GRO may wish to consider a multi-level approach where those organisations who have a long history as religious and belief bodies, with longstanding memberships and can evidence compliance with nominating and managing officiants have an extended time limit.

This would be similar to the model in Scotland where newer bodies can only seek temporary authorisation for their officiants. They then 'progress' to become a nominating body with officiants able to be authorised for 3 year periods.

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

We strongly oppose the proposition that independent officiants be able to apply to be authorised.

Our opinion on those reflects our response to Question 39

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is our opinion that each party should be required to make a declaration of consent to be married. These declarations should be obvious to the officiant and witnesses.

On point 4 - consideration should be given to the importance of any declaration of marriage by the officiant.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the statement submitted by Humanists UK to this question as part of their consultation response.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQY-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 11:03:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

British Marine

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

British Marine supports this proposal. There are in excess of 720 Passenger boat businesses in the UK operating over 1200 passenger vessels of varying size. Our members of the Passenger Boat Association (PBA) have confirmed that there is high demand for wedding ceremonies to take place on board vessels. Currently, only permanently moored vessels can hold such ceremonies, however to legally permit weddings to take place anywhere could allow them to take place while the vessel is moving, or, to allow the vessel to disembark and then moor up at a specific location for the ceremony.

There are many locations all over the UK that would prove to be very popular, including the Thames, lake district, coastal waters and lochs in Scotland. The ability to perform a wedding with ever changing beautiful scenery will surely be an attraction. The types of vessel will be domestic passenger vessels that are already venues for a host of different activities (such as dinners, business events, parties etc).

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Once a boat has left the mooring, this would not realistically be an issue.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

British Marine believes that as long as the vessel meets all passenger safety standards, the officiant should permit the wedding.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Passenger Boat operator should provide a certificate that the vessel is safe and dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

British Marine would be delighted to contribute to this guidance for Passenger Boat operators.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

British Marine would support this proposal. The many Passenegr Boat operators running their businesses on the coast would see this as a huge opportunity to generate additional revenue.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

British Marine believes that weddings should be able to take place on all types of vessels as long as they meet the appropriate safety and dignity requirements. For example, any vessel operating in UK waters with over 12 passengers is deemed to be a passenger vessel and must be certified by the MCA as such. This issue of the passenger vessel certificate includes full surveys of the vessel. The issuance of the passenger vessel certificate should



suffice.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

British Marine would also wish to see this proposal extended to all deck officers of vessels, including those on inland and coastal waters.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

British Marine does not believe there will be any negative impacts on the maritime industry.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Our members are fully supportive of this legislative change. This will provide commercially operated vessels with a much needed alternative income source.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDFW-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 16:19:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Because marriages can only be carried out by a vicar or registrars in England, their lack of availability during lockdown has meant there have been no marriage ceremonies. Once up and running, the restricted and monopoly of the organisation of registration services meant that there were backlogs which could have been cleared easily by allowing celebrants to carry out legal weddings.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would enable people to access English /Welsh wedding services from abroad more easily without using holidays whilst awaiting eligibility

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Far easier than booking an appointment and then having to attend when convenient to the registration services

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Why have to wait if there is no administrative reason?

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would allow for easy changes to marriage plans without unnecessary administration

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It provides reassurance that there is someone who is legally entitled to marry couples, and a substitute in case of illness

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a definite requirement to enable independent celebrants to apply to carry out legal weddings, which currently we are not allowed to do

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As an independent celebrant and separately a wedding registrar I can see that it is a necessity that there should be full training.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

In mixed cultures couples want a small element of their own religious culture included, which is not allowed in a civil marriage ceremony. England is a multi cultural society and this is being asked for more and more.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The chances that someone is going to bound through the door to say that someone getting married is already wed is hardly likely to happen!

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For health and safety reasons

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A body such as Registration Services, as at present

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a matter of choice

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDFA-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 16:22:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person interview might still not totally alleviate this risk so I believe an online option should be offered.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Giving people flexibility and choice is important

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It comes down to trust and professional standards and clarity. I believe in those as being essential when working with a couple.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Celebrants are independently trained at the moment and oftentimes connected via membership or affiliated to their training organisations and these should be listed alongside Humanist and other non religious belief organisations that conduct weddings.

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's useful to keep track!

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants offer a bespoke wedding ceremony that gives couples the freedom to express themselves in an location and particularly outdoors. The ability of an independent celebrant to offer their services is not beleaguered because we are unable to legalise the marriage however it does create extra stress for couples and costs when a celebrant and a registrar are at a wedding venue that's licenced. It doubles their costs. And yet the registration is no different than had it been conducted at the register office. Unfortunately it's also been the case that appointment slots for standard services at the register office have been cut back and so couples don't have the option to save money there. Allowing and enabling independent officiant celebrants to operate would mean couples can enjoy both the protection of the Law as well as a totally bespoke wedding ceremony that authentically represents them. The days of one size templates has really gone. Couples haven't turned their backs on tradition but want more choice in terms of the ceremony time, date, location, content and format.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe this to be fair in the case of non religious belief systems who tend to be unsalaried. The clergy are doing something different and see marriage as a union with God. They work for the church and are salaried. So they should not be putting a business forward as an officiant. Non religious belief organisations are focused on the relationship with and between the humans marrying. They are not salaried as far as I know, and need to make a living. I feel it's unfair to have "joined" them under this particular question. .

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants have varying niches experience and expertise as well as business models and as long as they are credible insured and in some understandable way "qualified" then their fees should not be regulated.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some guidance as to the legal aspects of conducting the registration of a legal marriage yes. But beyond that no or they're getting involved in a never ending scenario of what a wedding could or would look like and they couldn't possibly cover all the potential types of ceremony format etc. They'd be making it a restricted service again which is not what couples would want.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

As a celebrant I am asked to include prayers hymns and poems which might have a religious or spiritual meaning. Often this is a very small part of the ceremony and more often than not to appease one or both sides of the couples family. The couple themselves might be secular but their families wanted them to marry in church. It's a compromise. I'm happy to include elements but would not be able to take on board a purely religious church style service and would ask the couple to see a minister. I believe a religious reading or a hymn are quite ok but this would only be around 2% of my clients wishes and even then would constitute no more than 10% of a ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

They need not be limited subject to a normal risk assessment being done.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Honestly the venue should be open to all whether they be religious or belief based but I would guess that the venues themselves would be against others using their location for a ceremony they were not a full part of.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have been an independent celebrant for 10 years and created and led around 300 ceremonies. Every single one of these couples were legally married either in the year(non uk couples ) or the week before the ceremony. None were planning to legalise the marriage afterwards. Why they wanted me was because I'm flexible and accommodating in terms of time day date location format and content. I'm bilingual too so offer a little more uniqueness. It would save my couples hundreds of pounds if I were able to legally register them.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDFN-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 16:46:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

On behalf of my own business as a celebrant

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In a legal marriage in the UK.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable to me, personally.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable to me, personally.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable to me, personally.



#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable to me, personally.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The Celebrations of Marriage that I've conducted during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic have only included the couple, and their immediate family (parents, children, siblings), along with a photographer to capture the sentiment of the event. These were all held in a properly regulated venue, with complete Covid-19 precautions and protocol. This was markedly different than the usual celebrations which range in attendance numbers from 50-300+. There could be no joining in of congratulations that wasn't adhering to social distancing measures, nor could there be any celebration of any sort (not even a sip of a congratulatory drink) afterwards. It felt quite sterile at times because the usual connections (hugs, handshakes etc.) could not be allowed.

Saying this, however, couples who chose to proceed with these weddings (and they were only a few compared to the average of 40 weddings I generally officiate in a typical year) resolved themselves to a satisfaction that this was the circumstance that they had to follow if they wanted a wedding ceremony to follow their legal marriage.

I conducted, additionally, several Renewal of Vows this past Summer and Autumn, which resemble wedding ceremonies quite closely, with most of the same components. Those ceremonies are described as having been similar to the above, with only an intimate attendance allowed.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I feel it is appropriate and fair to expect couples to adhere to this requirement. I would support this.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the current environment, I agree that only or postal registration should be allowed, with a personal interview set at a later date, if needed.

#### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that seven days is fair and achievable, considering that many couples will plan 'destination' weddings to the UK, so this will enable them to achieve the legal requirements without having to commit to a longer period of time in the UK beforehand.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I would support the possibility for interviews to take place remotely, with the follow-up of an in-person interview where concerns were present and highlighted. This is sensible to preserve the integrity of legal marriage, as long as any questions were consistent from one couple to another, avoiding personal interpretations and biases by the individual responsible for the orchestrating the legal marriage.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I support flexibility in this to allow those couples outside the UK or territories if both are relevant nationals or exempt from immigration control.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I support this practice.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree with this.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is fair and appropriate.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is appropriate and I support this.

Please share your views below:

I agree per the above question, however it's not clear what 'other circumstances' are meant to be in this statement.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is an outdated practice in my view.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I support this.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this seems sensible and appropriate.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

If this is to meet specific requirements by the church, then it makes sense. However, if it is just another layer of authority, I'm not sure why it's necessary.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, both should be required to attend, though it may not be possible to attend at the same time (e.g. if one person is out of the country until the week before the wedding, etc.).

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It seems sensible to me, from my experience, that all legal marriage ceremonies should be preceded by civil preliminaries, and if a wedding is to take place in a church, then that protocol is followed afterwards.

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be consistent across the board for officiants, registrars and religious clergy.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, otherwise it does not present as a level playing field.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, either someone is qualified or they aren't. This is how it's done in many other countries in the West, so it is easily possible and manageable.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though better training wouldn't go amiss for clergy in how they deliver wedding ceremonies, and balance personalisation of the ceremony with required scripture, prayers, etc.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I agree with this completely.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I agree with this, because there is too much 'stretching the rules' as to what Humanist officiants will or won't do or say in a ceremony. It seems that many 'turn the other cheek' and compromise their organisations belief that they don't believe in any spiritual or religious existence. This is confusing for couples who may seek out a Humanist officiant with the desire to be consistent with the Humanist belief system.

Please share your views below:

This can get tricky. I don't have any specific organisations to suggest, but if we're allowing legal officiation across the board, how do we, for example, deny emotionally harmful cults or groups such as 'devil worshipping' or groups with views that are socially harmful (white supremecist groups for example) to access the same legal abilities? Can we even presume to have the ability to do this?

What will be the premise for denying legal training and registration of individuals who represent socially questionable groups? Or, will this need to just be an across-the-board allowance?

An interesting decision to be made.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I support this, as stated in my response to Question 24 above.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I don't see an issue with this.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this must be vetted.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, at a minimum, all of those qualifications listed above.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I support this happening.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree. Fees should be established by each registered officiant because service, level of creativity, commitment and quality varies from one person to the next.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is the ethical approach.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course!

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree in terms of ensuring the the proper legal components are included. Apart from that, the officiant should have the freedom to add further to the ceremony according to how it's personalised, creatively scripted, etc.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this will also require the various training organisations and forums to step up their own standards and practices.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I agree, though there will need to be a very specific process in place that is consistent from case to case. It should not be subjective, though this can be a way to present the concerns, but facts and evidence must prevail over anecdotal assumptions. This will probably require a 'grievance' process to be in place at the inception of this system.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, per the same criteria I outlined in Question 38 above.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree. No age limit either. With annual (or other regularly reviewed periodic applications for renewal).

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, tough this would need to be quite fluid as there are many ways officiants would pursue continuing their professional development, and that would not just be via their organisation or forum. Though I agree that there could be a 'minimum' requirement that the forum/organisation sets out for officiants to adhere to every 1, 3 5 years or so. And the training offered by the organisations/forums would need to be current and conducted by a range of officiants with experience and styles - not just those who mostly train for a living.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This simplifies the legal responsibilities of the officiant and that's appropriate.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With just an order of standard and requirement components included.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Completely.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely!

Please share your views below:

I believe that it should be up to the officiant and the couple as to what should be allowed in their wedding ceremony, outside of the standard and required legal components. Once you start limiting the type of religious content, then it's still limited in scope and we're not much further than where we are, currently.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not understanding why we'd want to repeal this. If I read this correctly, (and I have to admit that the language of these questions often gets in the way of getting to the heart of the issues we're seeking answers for, at least for me), we are saying that we want the right to repeal the idea that a religious service should not necessarily be able to occur 'after' the civil ceremony? Is this because we want to streamline the civil ceremony and make sure it is all encompassing and move away from the segregation of religion and civil ceremonies? Consider that there may be certain aspects of a religious ritual, for example, that a couple wish to do in private and not with their guests in attendance. Not sure what this could be, but maybe a baptism or something like that as part of the civil ceremony. Couples might not wish to include that as part of the same ceremony. There are likely other elements of other religious ceremonies (not church of England) that this could impact. Perhaps it's better to draw up an outline of what should be blended and examples of what might be officiated 'afterwards'?

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense, though it's probably not our biggest argument. I suppose if your wedding is at a posh wedding you'd not want the 'public' to storm in and make themselves comfortable, so in that case, yes, I agree.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Full stop. This happens in so many other countries - no reason it can't happen here.

Please share your views below:

No limitations, anywhere. If a couple wish to get married jumping out of a plane with parachutes, or scuba diving in the sea, that shouldn't impede any of the legal marriage requirements they have already fulfilled by the date of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I do agree with this and I think this is something that will be a big factor for couples.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I officiate quite a lot of ceremonies in chapels, small churches, other places of worship. This will depend on the couple's view of religion vs. spirituality. There's a big difference in my view, and I see no reason to prohibit any of the above.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If we mean that officiants should 'approve' locations for health and safety reasons, yes.  
If we mean 'approve' in any other capacity, I don't think that's the responsibility of the officiant. If an officiant is not comfortable with a venue, they shouldn't take the wedding.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safe, yes. But how do we define 'dignified'? I suppose a wedding in a brothel might be questionable, but it might be for everyone? I think that 'dignified' needs to be defined further - dignified to whom, how, why?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as 'dignified' is defined more clearly.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, we start down the same path of controlling where couples should and shouldn't get married with this. If it's safe, accessible and appropriately sheltered for weather change, then between the couple and the officiant, that's what should be vetted. I suppose having a checklist will be helpful.

Please share your views below:

A joint effort between the couple and the officiant, signed by by parties.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, though we will want to add 'legal guardian' as well as there are a lot of people who have been fostered without birth families or legal adoption. And, there 'step parents' who have often brought up children and are considered 'dad' or 'mum' to a couple. There may also be 'uncles, aunts, godparents' who will fall into this category. So, this description needs to be broadened a bit.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree. Though in both languages will be more useful for historians in the future.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not happy with No. 4 above, but I agree that we have to accommodate some religious rules. Often a couple will want a 'religious' tone for their wedding ceremony, though they themselves may not be 'practising' and they want this only to appease family members. So, in the case of No. 4 above, this could be tricky to accommodate in the year 2021.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With a very quick and easy system in place to rectify any of these issues.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But again, I'm hung up a bit on 1.b.ii above.

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree. I have done many wedding ceremonies for couples who live in different countries part of the time, and often one has to leave to tend to business commitments, etc. but they split their time between residences.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it's time we take other people out of the bedroom of couples.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Outdated and obsolete in my view.

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and those individuals should be banned from the Officiant profession - at least for a time.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There needs to be a swift and efficient system so that some civil ceremonies can be conducted at a moment's notice.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes, agree, though this might have to take place just before the ceremony, on the same day, minutes before the legal marriage takes place. Depends on the urgency of the situation and red tape will just unnecessarily threaten the timeline (in the case of a terminal illness).

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, no reason for their to be different requirements and qualifications when it comes to Civil marriages. Registrars will also register births and deaths, but for civil marriages, there needs to be one clean requirements and qualification.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, definitely, because their day-to-day life will vary in energy, strength, wellness depending on treatments and recovery from treatment/surgery. I discovered this with several weddings I officiated for a couple where one of them was terminally ill. Ups and downs and though it's hard to plan an event like a civil ceremony around someone's health, at least there is the flexibility that can ease additional stress on the couple.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, similar to my response in Question 65 above.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We sometimes just need to trust people without dragging them into legal assessments. A legal marriage is a legal marriage, regardless of how swiftly it happens or how far in advance it's planned.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely! This is very appealing to a wide audience.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, similar to my response in Question 68 above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As long as it's in safe territory, I agree.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, again this is for the safety of the officiant. And the officiant could be replaced on the day for any number of reasons, so having their name is incidental.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, depending on authorisation by those in charge.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, a streamlined, consistent process for all.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No idea. Can't see any reason to disallow this.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, a more liberal requirement is likely sensible.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, though there may be other factors that might cause a higher expense for some than for others. E.g. form of travel - it will be more efficient and rapid if an officiant travels by car, and more costly if they travel by train or plane. So, possible to have a standard fee PLUS other expenses. Maybe this is more of a tax issue than an issue for this proposal.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

I tend to be all for compassionate approaches to situations if the officiant can afford it. Perhaps this is something that is optional for the officiant to decide for themselves? If they can't afford to forgive the fee then they charge it. If they can forgive the fee, then they absorb it somehow. The same principle can apply to a couple who are financially strapped or can't afford any ancillary expenses outside of the civil marriage fees. I think this needs to be presented as 'optional' for officiants.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But those fees need to be reviewed and modified because in some cases at present, they are ridiculously high and register office management can tend to push couples into a higher costing time slot and room. So review of the current practice is needed for all register offices and councils.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, though I see this as something some officiants might take advantage of. So it will need to have clear guidelines and criteria to qualify for the reimbursement fee.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IF there's a pre-approval process established, yes.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems fair enough.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No issue with this.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With compassionate structuring (discounting) of fees to be an option in cases of terminal illness, health etc. causing the incapacitation.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There are charities the will arrange 'no fee' wedding ceremonies. Perhaps it's best left to them to keep on as that resource. I think that an officiant should have the authority to discount fees as they deem appropriate.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of current law discouraging couples from being legally married, though I agree that there is very little flexibility and creativity allowed at the moment. But I'm not aware of 'prevention' happening on a wide scale basis. Not sure that couples aren't getting married because of the process - it's more likely they aren't getting married because of tax purposes, financial responsibility etc. But it's possible for a couple to get married legally at present

for a significantly low fee (cheapest day, time slot etc. at a register office).

I am curious now whether some couples can't afford the cheapest options - I suppose it's possible. Do we have any evidence of this from councils?

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

My views on this are limited because I mostly work with approved venues, or people's homes/gardens or in nature - these all have a wide range of costs involved. Certainly, a financially strapped couple won't easily afford a legal marriage ceremony PLUS a celebration afterwards, unless it's a pub meal paid for by family or something similar. I think the big issue is what councils are charging couples - trying to squeeze them into the higher fee slots. People should have the right to get married without much of a fee at all, and that's probably already offered in many areas of the UK. The discrimination comes in with approved venues, or what church officials charge for weddings in their place of worship.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Obviously a separate legally recognised marriage ceremony impacts the overall budget for couples if they also want a 'celebration' (personalised wedding ceremony), so this is a definite issue that could be resolved with legally authorising celebrants to officiate weddings.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No data or evidence to provide.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No data or evidence to provide.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have only personal views on this - no evidence or data to provide.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence or data to provide but I imagine that if we do the math, the fees charged to independent celebrants to renew they license every year will be a health source of income for councils.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence or data to provide.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence of data to provide.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence, data or experience with this one to provide.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence or data to provide.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No evidence or data to provide.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDF2-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 18:23:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree - particularly now with Covid concerns in a rapidly changing situation

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I don't feel this is necessary

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

It should be joint

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:



Please share your views below:

It should not

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on what the couple would like their ceremony to represent. My getting married the couple has recognised the solemnity etc but may wish their ceremony to reflect their personalities which may include fun elements etc.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Favourite hymns, readings etc

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Couples should be permitted to marry wherever they so wish

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

N/a

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I feel that the couples wishes should be paramount

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Naval vessels

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

People with long contracts at sea or those who love to travel may wish to marry at sea

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Some couples with no religious belief and who dislike the impersonal and formality of a civil ceremony may be deterred from getting married.

Opening up the potential of getting married Where, when and how is likely to impact positively on the number of couples choosing to be legally married

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs at specific wedding venues can be prohibitive and prevent couples marrying.

The expense and necessity to have two ceremonies in order to legalise the marriage (should a celebrant-led wedding be chosen) is also prohibitive

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See previous Questions comments

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Weddings could be an untapped revenue stream for a variety of businesses and venues not currently able to offer weddings.

Furthermore this would also free up religious and civil venues as there will be more choice

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDF8-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 18:42:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My Partner and I wished for a personal spiritual ceremony and decided on a Handfasting, which was close to our beliefs and also held in our garden labyrinth.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We were aware from the beginning that this type of ceremony would not be recognised by law.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We wanted a ceremony that reflected our beliefs in nature and spiritual feelings. We also wanted to hold the ceremony in natural surrounding.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We were aware that in the eyes of the law we are not legally married and have rectified this by making Wills. We recognised that if anything happened to one of use the estate would be given to their family and the partner would not be entitled to anything or have to go to court to fight for what, by legal marriage, would automatically transfer to them. Hence the Wills.



#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We wanted to have a spiritual meaning ceremony surrounded by nature, No legal binding ceremony would have allowed us to do this.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a trained Independent Celebrant who only conducts Wedding Ceremonies/ Handfastings etc. I have found that it has been very traumatic for my couples during 2020 and even into 2021. A few have left it very late before deciding to postpone their ceremonies, hoping that they would that the pandemic would be over and they could celebrate with all family and friends. I personally have only managed on deposits paid for ceremonies and have had to keep those deposits 'ring fenced' in case any couple decide to cancel their ceremonies altogether. So far no one has, but who know when this will end. Already a couple have been advised by their venue to cancel or postpone their late March Wedding. With all the normal wedding booking during the year, those that are having to postpone are finding it difficult to agree a reasonable date with their chosen venue or even looking for new venues that would be free on a date that would suit them. Others are just taking any date the venues can offer them. Those that are having Garden ceremonies are having to keep track of Gov. advice and hope that when the time gets closer they would be allowed to go ahead. It has been and still is a very stressful time for them all, trying to organise not only the original ceremony date but transferring all their services to a new date and or venue. Every wedding comes with complications but this year has seen more complications for ever couple. Most Celebrants have tried to help as much as possible.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In todays world of travel, especially for work, it is not always easy to be resident in one area for a continual seven days before your ceremony. Plus it would give the couples more choice on what venue they would like without having to move there for seven days beforehand.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously documentation would still have to be provided to prove that each is free to marry. How that would work totally on line without fraud I cannot say but would be better to have everything checked personally.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Not always possible to fit in but recommend that it should be within four weeks of the ceremony date.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote could work where they couple chose to have their ceremony in a different area to the one they live in and they would have to travel. On the other hand it could be that they could maybe consult with someone local who could then pass on the cleared documentations to the relevant Celebrant . Co-operation is a wonderful thing and something that does not happen in the present system!

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes I believe it should be possible .

#### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure how secure on-line would be. How much information would be seen by the general public? In theory it is a good idea but how would it all work in practice. Would it be one on-line public notice for everyone no matter which part of the UK or would it be in Regional or District areas? Would the couple's addresses be given or just names? I think I would need more answers before I could fully agree.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle I agree but, in my experience as an Independent Celebrant, our couples already know us because they have already chosen us and, with regards to myself, I always let them know who would conduct their ceremony if I would not be available for reason beyond my control. This is where Independent celebrant ceremony is far better than the Registration one. The couple chose and personally connect with the one they would like to conduct their ceremony. The fact that a Registrar's Celebrant could be anyone and not necessary the couples choice and the fact that they would not see or meet them beforehand is not good for the couples, let alone just be given names off a list and told this is who will conduct your ceremony and by the way if they can't this one will! Not good!

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be a backup plan for every occasion but that should be given at the beginning of all commitments to conduct a ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Only if the Officiant no longer wishes to continue as an Officiant between accepting the Ceremony and the actual date of the Ceremony but then the Officiant should be in continual contact with the couple and let them know well before the date of the ceremony so the couple can then meet or even chose an alternative Officiant.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People have so many different Spiritual views and beliefs.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If Question 13 is agreed then it makes sense that this one should be repealed

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, If there is to be an online notice then the Anglican weddings should adhere to the same and not just published in their church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Anglican weddings and clergy should be under the same rules and regulations for all other Officiants. if all other Officiants have the power to call for documentary evidence etc then so should the Clergy. There should be no difference. I believe it is down to the church to stipulate whether they would be meeting with couples individually before allowing the marriage to go ahead in their establishment and then it is the couples choice whether to wish to go through with the interrogation as to whether they should be married. It is a belief system not a law requirement.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Couples wishing for an Anglican marriage should have the same rules and regulations as those that have any other Ceremony. No extra rules and regulations should apply other than those for religious beliefs.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

As in my previous answers I believe that all Churches, Religions and Spiritual Groups should have one common legal procedure before the ceremony.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couples chosen Officiant should be able to complete all documentation with and for the Couple prior, during and after the couples chosen ceremony.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple choose to have a Registration ceremony for whatever reason be it a quick ceremony or because they do not wish for any spiritual or religious content then a Registrar should take the role of the Officiant.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If all other Officiant fill in documentation with no second than the Registration Officer acting as an Officiant should do the same.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As in my other answers all Officiants conducting Weddings Ceremonies should be treated the same regardless of venue of the Ceremony.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure about this one. I believe that couple would wish to know and meeting with the Officiant, however if the Registration service is allowed to tell the couples who will be Officiating their ceremony without the couple being able to chose then so others should be able to. However i am all for couple being able to chose the person and personality that best fits them rather than being told who they have to have.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it would mean that the couple could then have an informed view of the type of ceremony they would have then I agree but not to the extent that those organisations dictate how the couple should live their lives after their ceremony.

Please share your views below:

No, there should be a list of Officiants and let the couples inquire as to what the belief system is. Most couples will already be aware of what type if belief ceremony they would want.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would like couple to be able to chose who conducts their ceremony, even if that choice is from a list given to them by the organisation.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Depends on what you believe is unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

If it gives the couples more informed information than I see no problem,

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Clearly a list of Nominated Officials should be on a public list for couples to choose from but whether this should be held by the General Register Office or an on-line list I am not sure about.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that all authorised Officials should be on a public list for the couples to choose from but as in my previous answer, whether this is held by the General Register Office or a general on-line government list?

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely it follows that if you have to apply to be an Official, regardless of religious or any other organisation, you would be already proven fit for purpose. If the Gov allow these organisations to choose their own Officials without them having to apply as to be registered then yes they should be held responsible.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But then ALL Officials should be required to demonstrate these requirements not just Independent Officials.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure that I do agree, most religions do ask couples to pay their expenses for officiating a ceremony and most do so with a little profit.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely all those registered as an Officiant would or should already be trained and know how to conduct a wedding. A guidance to what should be included in a ceremony maybe but not how it should be conducted

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the body who nominated them fails to act or if their are several complaints against an Officiant as to their conduct

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am aware that they are quite a few Register Offices that are totally against Independent Officiants and this may bias their decision. Maybe a body of Officials from all should be the ones to investigate and decide.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This may include having to continually spend money on training that may not be necessary if the Officiant keeps upto date with everything. Unless any their training organisation gives the extras as free when they train

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Each ceremony should be tailored to the needs and beliefs of the couple and not to the Officiants beliefs unless the Officant is working under a particular religious or non religious group beliefs system

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Civil ceremony has always been unique in the fact that there is no religious or spiritual content allowed. it is purely a Civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If all ceremonies are official then there would be no need for separate ceremonies after a civil ceremony

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

i do not believe that every ceremony is open to public access now. I have been to several civil ceremony that have never had open doors and also restricted numbers of people attending. I suppose if you are to continue to include the impediment part in the ceremony then you would have to allow public access.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where is surely the couples choice and if in unusual places the health and safety regulations should apply and the Officiant should be aware of all this for the actual ceremony.

Please share your views below:

No limitations providing all health and safety measures have been taken and the Couple take out or the venue has a public liability insurance.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A lot of Civil wedding locations are not publicly accessible or available now so why and how will it be changed?

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil weddings are recognised as being the Registrar lead weddings with no belief or spiritual content so should only be conducted in their own venues. However, all other belief or spiritual ceremony could be conducted anywhere. Most religious wedding are conducted within their own buildings.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should take into consideration what the couple would like and where they would like their ceremony but if the Officiant believes it would be too dangerous or contravening health and safety they must be able to say so. The couple can then choose to decide to choose another venue or Officiant who would approve the venue.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe yes. Always there should be health and safety considerations but as long as the ceremony is dignified why should the location be?

No

Please expand on your answer:

it should be for the view of the Officiant whether the location or venue is suitable and meets all health and safety standards. Advise may be published to assist couples when choosing venues.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple, Venue and the Officiant should work together when the couple chose a location as to whether it would meet all health and safety issues during the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

As above, The couple, venue and Officiant should work together to ensure health and safety requirements are met during the ceremony.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very similar to the marriage certificate and documentation already required.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not only in English and Welsh but surely in the main language of the couple to be married

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

At the moment no I do not agree but I see in the future that this may become the 'norm' . Part of me believes it is essentially part of the marriage ceremony.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There will always be restrictions and I would agree with

1. failure of both or either party to give notice of intended marriage un the required authorised way - not necessarily the registration service

2 The wedding taking place after authority to marry had lapsed with

3 Surely if the couple employ someone who is not an Officiate they will already know their marriage is not legal

4 Why is it necessary for a relevant religious governing authority to give consent for a same-sex marriage?

No

Please expand on your answer:

All documentation should be completed correctly. If there is a slight spelling mistake on a name that should not be an issue but a wrong name should not be overlooked/

There should always be witnesses to the consent and marriage, otherwise this could be open to abuse.

No one should fail to sign the document if the marriage ceremony is conducted correctly.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As my answers before:

1 Yes to both not giving notice  
b If not a Register Officiant both parties will already know that it was not a legal marriage  
I do not agree that a religious organisation has to give consent for a same sex marriage.  
2 yes agree both have to consent to be married.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I believe that as long as a person is mentally aware of what they are doing it should not be a problem as to whether they are terminal ill, in prison, hospital or housebound.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely, along with all marriages every person should be required to give notice of their intention. If the terminal ill person wishes to marry, say days before dying then maybe a medical officer (Dr, Consultant) should give a statement to say that it is what the patient is believe to be of sound mind but limited time in the body and exempt from giving notice.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As with the above question there maybe circumstances where the require time of consent cannot be met so a special licence should be allowed.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 Yes agree that extensions should be allowed until after a national emergency

2, 3 and 4 I do not agree with a remote wedding ceremony unless under special circumstances which could come under the rules for a special licence.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Naval Ships

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that they should give all details of the ship but if a regular marrying couple have to give the name of the Officiant then they should also give the name of the Officiant,

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They must be a registered Independent Officiant

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea, but I expect that there will be. I assume that most ships both commercial and Naval have a religious officiant on board of one or other faith and that those Officiants will have to be registered for marriages whether of their own religion or for a non religion marriage. No one should be expected to be married until the rules of the religion of the Officiant on board.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As discussed before, most paperwork will be 'posted' online and so I cannot see any problem with the same happening on board a ship unless such ship does not have an internet connection, in which case they should not have weddings on board.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some couple will not wish for the Big or any ceremony in which case exchanging vows with two witnesses is all that is required/

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing that fee is nationwide and not allocated in Regions.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Most of the couples that I have conducted Wedding Ceremonies for have had a quick civil ceremony before or after so that in the law they are married as well as in the way they wished to exchanged their vows to one or another. Very few have never bothered with the civil ceremony but I do believe it would encourage more people to marry in the way they wish to be married without the added cost of two ceremonies!

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1 Register office weddings are regionally different which on top of the law to reside for 7 days before the wedding makes it very hard on those couples who live in a region which is the highest in the country but next to a region that has a lower cost. A lot of the costs of a register wedding comes with a lot of extra costs ie for certificates etc

2 Registrars have the ability to withdraw an approval from a venue without any given reason or timescale. I have known venues to have been threatened with withdrawal because they have had allowed Independent ceremonies on their premises . Therefore not allowing choices for the couple and often it would be more costly having two people from the Registrar to attend.

3 I believe that this is in generally compatible or even cheaper than a Register venue

4 The cost is even higher due to the fact that the couple have to pay to have a registered marriage and also the wedding ceremony that they wish for at a venue that has meaning for them.

As above.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unfortunately the fact that the law does not require all local authorities to be consistent is not fair on couples in neighbouring authorities. Local Registrars can and do assess payment on what money that local authority requires and often treat the Registration and conducting wedding as a business instead of an authority service. Unfortunately they also have the authority to issue demands on venues.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It will lessen the necessary of so many Register Celebrants to help Officiate at ceremonies and reduce their overall costs of opening up building and all that cost of overheads at weekend, which when most wedding are taken.

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDF3-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 19:27:52

### About you

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Response on behalf of an organisation

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I had a legally bindi g wedding

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Non existent

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No opinion

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Face to face as standard

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Where appropriate

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I dont understand the question

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it should be decided by the client

Please share your views below:

Up to the client, perhaps if promoted and known to current officiant

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom for all

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Do not understand

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Rules should be universal

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Same rules for all

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All rules should be the same

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be registered as legal

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be registered

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should be legally registered

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be legally registered

If couple want religious ceremony it should be held by legal religious standing

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious ceremonies should be held by religious bodies

Officiants should be able to be legally registered to conduct legally binding ceremonies as registrars currently do

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couple should have the freedom of their own beliefs and officiant has power for mixed ceremonies

Please share your views below:

Celebrants

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding service that up holds beliefs on marriage

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Couple should have freedom of choice

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Couple choice

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

But officiants should be registered for legal ceremony

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Yes

Yes

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sole trader business

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Conflict of interest should be a prohibited act as with any employment

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not a religious authority

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should be of good standingo

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Asap

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Religious should be religious

Officiant could only have parts if beliefs are mixed

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Up to rules and couple

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant should be able to do it

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If its pre approved its pre approved and venue should have documentation to prove

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All in cost of officiant

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Stops people getting married

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Officiant one stop shop

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The benefit of officiant being registered saves the couple added expense

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Freedom of choice for couples of mixed beliefs by law by officiant

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Fees for registered celebrants and cost cutting for separate registrars

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Couples should have more choice options

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDEV-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 21:44:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

You can not get married completely outside.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Registrars have struggled to cope with the demand of the amount of weddings.

If weddings were allowed to take place outside they would be more COVID secure.



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be allowed to get married where they want.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems very sensible.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Three days is a sensible amount of time. This would be very helpful for couples getting married in an area where they don't normally reside.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would give couples so much choice and flexibility with their ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that their should be any restrictions on the locations.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple wish to get married at home, they should be allowed.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think by changing the laws more couples will choose to get married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples struggle to justify the costs of having a civil wedding & then having an independent celebrant conduct a blessing for them at their chosen location.

The proposed change in the law will give more flexibility & allow couples to get married in the way that they truly want without having to compromise.

It will also allow couples to mention religion in their ceremony which they currently can't do. It will make weddings more inclusive by allowing mix faith weddings to take place.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As previously mention Davi Cs will be made by couples who want to get married in unlicensed premises who currently have to have a small civil ceremony first at great cost. Then the 2nd ceremony that they actually want & is more inclusive of their views & ideas.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

More venues will be able to host wedding ceremonies.

Couples wouldn't have to accept ceremony times that they were not happy with. Currently couples say they are forced into choosing times by the registrars who may have to conduct multiple weddings in one day.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



Smaller venues who cannot afford to currently licence their premises would be able to host weddings. Thus increasing their revenue.

I believe more weddings would take place, improving economic revenue.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It will allow couples to arrive closer to their wedding date when travelling from overseas.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDEP-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 22:29:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is much needed and will enable far more choice for couples

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDE9-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 22:43:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Ceremonies  
United Kingdom Society of Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not in a marriage recognised by law in the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not in a marriage recognised by law in the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not in a marriage recognised by law in the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not in a marriage recognised by law in the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I am not in a marriage recognised by law in the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The constant restraint on weddings, both when restrictions have been lifted and eased has shed light on the type of ceremonies couples wish to have. The light of which consequences are not limited.

Couples have seen the types of ceremonies they can have change, both legally binding and otherwise. The situation that COVID-19 has presented has forced couples to look inwards at their own beliefs, and how they want represented.

Humanist weddings being illegal in England and Wales, but legal in Northern Ireland has become highly restrictive. Ceremonies presented by Independent Celebrants being illegal across the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland where the couples beliefs are not religious but are not entirely represented by humanism has also become highly restrictive.

It is my view that the findings of the Law Commission's report, regardless of the result be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland, and should not be left to be a devolved issue to ensure that couples across the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland can celebrate exactly how they mean to.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

##### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a date ideally selected by the couple.

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews will be a necessity as the COVID-19 situation has presented viable alternative methods of doing interviews. Phone interviews where a freephone number is presented with secure dial-in would be more viable to ensure equality of access. Infrastructure like this is common across telephony infrastructures used in Civil Service departments so should not be difficult to implement.

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This should be expanded to include Northern Ireland

##### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any situation where the couple are at risk of being placed in harms way should be prevented. Notices of Marriage should not be publicly displayed, only where the couple has expressed their wish to be made public.

Notice of Marriage should be anonymous until made otherwise, as an "opt-out."

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will give couples notice to change their plans where and when necessary to help with mitigating extenuating circumstances.

Suppliers and vendors can be more easily rebooked when the couple know that they have more flexibility over the date of their wedding.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The commission need to consider if this information is pertinent to the schedule.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The list of reasons why an officiant cannot perform the ceremony should not be limited to these reasons.

A substitute officiant should not be listed on the schedule as the named substitute may not be able to perform on the specified date when and if contacted.

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an outdated law.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes

2. No

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

The couple should not have to make separate declarations.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

If this is how the couple wishes to be married, the couple should not be limited to have civil preliminaries as they are now for non-religious marriages

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A registration officer would effectively take over the proceedings of an officiant if this was the case.

### Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A registration officer would effectively take over the proceedings of an officiant if this was the case.

### Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be connected to an organisation to ensure trust and legitimacy

### Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Point 1 is applicable, but Point 2 defeats the purpose of this consultation

### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 28:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with Points 1, 2 and 3, however in Point 3 where content is determined by the Registrar General this could leave many celebrants who are trained and experienced left to re-train where they are needed to perform ceremonies.

I would submit that any content determined by the Registrar General must be completed by a certain date by existing celebrants, but are still able to perform ceremonies during this period of time.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiating at weddings IS their business.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Conflicts of Interests would need to be defined, and no limits on charge of fees should be introduced.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important for independent celebrants be represented by organisations that represent their values and views so couples can have a ceremony with an officiant that represents them. Membership of organisations should be determined by the organisation, not the law.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance, but not rules

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

When the organisation recommends the person to be an officiant, there should be no longer than 2 weeks for authorisation.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A religious service would not be legally binding after the civil wedding ceremony has been performed. There should not be a restriction on this.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be up to the couple

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safe, yes.

Dignified as a word is vague.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Points 1 and 2, yes.

Point 3, no. This does not work where either party of the couple's parents are estranged, deceased, or not acknowledged by either party of the couple.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland, for Ulster Scots, Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Frankly this infrastructure and technology already exists and should be implemented. This can be implemented easily through gov.uk

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Rights should be extended to allow for marriage in these circumstances

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only where time is not a limiting factor. Where time is a limiting factor, questions should only be the bare minimum

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Those registered as officiants should be able to hold these ceremonies.

Deck officers and maritime officials should apply to become officiants as a special part of their role.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Those registered as officiants should be able to hold these ceremonies.

Deck officers and maritime officials should apply to become officiants as a special part of their role.

You would have to determine whether or not officiants travelling on board the vessel should automatically be considered members of the crew. There would be several issues to this.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There could be some cultural significance to this and should not be ruled out as an option.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. The current law of course not only discourages, but prevents couples from getting married in a way that represents them and their world view. Constraining couples to have generic ceremonies presented by council employees and those from religious organisations is a major pain point, and denies the economy millions of pounds in revenue.
2. Provisional proposals would enable more couples to get married. However, this should be expanded to include Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDFG-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-15 22:57:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Confidentiality preferred if possible - I am contributing as an independent Wedding and family celebrant

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil ceremony conducted by a registrar followed by our own hand written blessing service.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I understood the legal implications of a registry wedding.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Understood all implications

No

Please expand on your answer:

Was legally married so N/A

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

As a divorced Catholic, my husband was not allowed to marry in church abd so we agreed (reluctantly) to have a registry led wedding but this was "dry" abd our meaningful service was written and conducted by ourselves and our family. Wonderful!

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Very challenging for both couples, suppliers and for me as a celebrant. Spent time encouraging, supporting and updating couples on latest guidelines and then re arranging plans where necessary.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems fair and reasonable.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This offers greater flexibility to couples whilst ensuring that the union is genuine.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

It's busy prior to any wedding but one week prior to the event seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this seems sensible

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this seems reasonable

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this seems fair and right

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that celebrants, with relevant training, should be able to carry out all legal obligations in line with the same duties as a registrar.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives reassurance, security andv

Please share your views below:

Yes as long as the officiant is trained to the highest standards

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, definitely banns to be read in church where the marriage will take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Definitely have the authority to check that the couple is genuine, authentic and legally correct ie no coercion etc

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Equality dictates that all couples go through the same regulations prior to their marriage

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All wedding officiants, including celebrants, to be legally trained to carry out all elements of the legal sides to complete a marriage in one ceremony..

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, professionally trained (with appro evidence) officiants to be named.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants to be included here please. An officiant who simply represents the beliefs of the couple, independent of any "faith" system as such.

Please share your views below:

Independent celebrants who have had professional training plus CPD.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Including the group of independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, definitely exclude these groups

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A central list seems useful

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is evidence of successful professional training

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Quality, high standards, consistency of officiant is v important

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Quality training essential for all officiants

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clear definitions of an independent celebrant required for couples to understand what we do.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Always - an absolute priority

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Without being too prescriptive - the joy of being a celebrant is the unrestricted ceremony we can create.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No need for these restrictions

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential but with guidelines for health and safety

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Sorry, I am unclear about the meaning of this question?

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I do not have enough information in this area to comment-sorry

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

"interviewed" sounds v formal under these circumstances. Def a conversation is required, gently conducted, of course.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Sorry, unable to comment

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Can't comment.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Definitely my couples have expressed their delight at having a celebrant led wedding. Having a separate legal process is manageable but raises questions about the full validity of a celebrant led ceremony. Increasingly, couples are wishing that their celebrant could complete the entire ceremony in one service to be witnessed by all of their chosen guests.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

All of my couples have expressed their pref to have their celebrant complete their entire service.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Equality and range of choice for all couples to use their venue as an expression of themselves and their values

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Sorry, I cannot give more detail

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Certainly, myself as a self employed independent celebrant would benefit from being able to complete all elements of a marriage and wedding if couples do not have to separate the 2 elements.



Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDFM-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-16 00:01:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDEN-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-16 07:11:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Cancelled Celebrant led ceremonies from previously booked clients due to lockdowns, firebreaks and reduction in numbers permitted to attend. Lost clients and revenue.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need flexibility for elopements, travel restrictions with Covid. Many couples live away from family home where they grew up and wish to return to marry.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Flexibility due to circumstances... covid, illness etc.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Flexibility of online consultations needed with current covid transport issues.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Modern format and practical

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Extenuating circumstances that shouldn't restrict the marriage going ahead.

Please share your views below:

Need clarification on other circumstances

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A to Celebrants

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If Independent Celebrants are given the legal recognition and rights of officiants by law

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Professional and registered independent Celebrants should be legally recognised, with the same legal position as Registrars, just as in Scotland, New Zealand and lots of other countries. Providing couples with the ceremony that reflects their views, religious/spiritual beliefs, Humanist/secular attitudes and cultural rituals and customs too. Allowing them to marry the way they want to, with one legally recognised ceremony led by an Independent Celebrant who belongs to a professional body and has achieved level 3 diploma in NOCN Celebrancy in family ceremonies.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So Independent Celebrants can officiate too. Also, costs and flexibility of officiating independently, as Independent Celebrants have done so for years.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be the couples decision at their important and personal rite of passage to chose a officiant who reflects their religious, spiritual, cultural or secular views. NOT just Humanist Celebrants who can only perform Humanist ceremonies. This restricts more couples who statistically have more Independent Celebrants officiate their ceremonies in England/Wales. This would deny more couples, compared to Humanist couples, their personal ceremony that reflects their personal beliefs, cultures and rituals.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This only reflects Humanist or secular organisations. If so they should only be able to officiate at Humanist/secular ceremonies and not be able to include any readings, music or rituals that have any religious/spiritual beliefs, rituals or wording. Some Humanist Celebrants allow couples to include religious/spiritual parts when this contradicts their non-belief tenet as Humanists.

Please share your views below:

The question is a double negative style wording and so clarification on the meaning is required to enter a response.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Many couoles do not attend regular worship/meetings. Church attendance is down. If you are a Humanist then not relevant as a Humanist Church is a contradiction in terms. What about those couples who have inter-faith beliefs or one faith/spirituality with secular views? How are these represented? They choose Independent Celebrants NOT Humanist Celebrants to officiate a ceremony suitable and meaningful for them. Independent Celebrants are being ignored in this proposal and we conduct more ceremonies than Humanist Celebrants. I do feel that Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and other world faith grouos religious leaders should be given the same legal recognition when officiating their ceremonies as Anglican vicars. England and Wales is mutlicultural, diverse and should reflect this in the recognition of the leadership of the rabbis, imans, pandits etc to be legally recognises. Why should flowers of these faiths have their religious ceremony and then have to conduct the legaloties separately when those of the Christian faith do not. Also, those who wish to have a spiritual/fusion or secular wedding should also only need the one ceremony for Independent Celebrants to be legally recognised as officiants too. But they should be members of a recognised professiobal body e.g. the AOIC, fully insured and with the NOCN qualification in family celebrancy.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, extremeist views/branches from religious/spiritual traditions.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This, once again, ignores the many Independent Celebrants as we do not fit into the catergories of religious and non-religious because we conduct inter-faith, non-faith, spiritual, cultural elements and ceremonies. The majority of Celebrants in England/Wales are Independent ones not just Humanist Celebrants, who should also be included but only allowing them to officiate Humanist ceremonies without any other religious/spiritual elements/words/rituals.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if Independent Celebrants are also recognised and nominated by recognised and registered Independent Celebrant professional bodies such as the AOIC.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally! Independent and Humanist Celebrants should be able to apply, be vetted and legally recognised to officiate ceremonies. Providing couples with security in the Celebrants credentials and to offer them the independence to have a ceremony created just for their beliefs, customs and views that is

meaningful for them. Nonlonger would they need the seperate legal ceremony at the Registrar's office where they go through the motions and is meaningless beyond the legal elements, which professionally recognised and vetted Independent Celebrants could include in their ceremonies, as they do on Scotland and other countries around the world. During covid Independent Celebrants have been forgotten, and in the Humanist legal case at the High Court. Independent Celebrants do not have the financial power of the Humanist Society in the UK to bring such a case highlighting the injustices for Independent Celebrants too (of which there are more than Himanist Celebrants) conducting more ceremonies, pre covid, in Eng/Wales when compared to Humanist Celebrants, who were only reflecting their cause in the High Court.

Many religious beliefs do not permit same sex marriage ceremonies in their places of worship due to their beliefs and teachings, including some Christian denominations and clergy. This means that samesex weddings are currently enforced to have two ceremonies... a Celebrant led one AND a Registrars legal requirements because they cannot marry in a church (except Irish Presbyterian) . This is discriminatory. They would be able to have one legal ceremony if Independent AND Humanist Celebrants would be legally recognised in the same way as Regisgrars are.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Once again wording does not include Independent Celebrants.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If Independent Celebrants are recognised in this too. Agree in terms of 1 and 2 but number 3 lacks the flexibility to accept the roles of I other proffesional bodies and their CPD for example the AOIC. Yes all officiants should be vetted, licensed and have CPD but to also recognise their religious, spiritual or professional bodies training and vetting e.g. the AOIC.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This does not recognise or appreciate the work of Independent and Humanist Celebrants who handcraft each script and officiate inline with couples views, beleifs, values and customs. Independent Celebrants are inclusive, recognising multiculturalism and interfaiths too. This question does not recognise the work of Independent Celebrants and will put many businesses out of business in what has been a very difficult time with covid. By pishing us out couples miss oit on their choice and to have a ceremony created just for them, which other couples throughout the world have the right to choose and have. This is marginalising and penalising Independent Celebrants and doesn't recognise the role and work of what we do.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants fees should be transparent but determined by the Independent Celebrant individually depending upon the type of ceremony, the preparations required, meetings and consultations needed and detail of ceremony required. Each ceremony, preparation and officiating is unique and so should not enforce blanket fee requirements.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrants should be able to legally officate religious and non-religious elements of ceremonies to reflect the couples views and values. Humamist Celebrants should only be able to officiate totally Humanist ceremonies with NO religious/spiritual readings, words, lyrics or rituals to be incorporated as this goes against their fundamental views, just to ensure they get the business and ceremony booked. It is contradictory to their Humanist values.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Imdependent Celebrants already do. They respect the expectations of fidelity and the monogamous legal attitudes in England/Wales.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is guidance! I agree that the 'legal' part of the ceremony could have the same wording and the same marriage certificate issued.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

May be appropriate to bodies such as the AOIC who are national but have some concern in regards to small and unofficial bodies of organisations. As a teacher as well I am used to inspections from Estyn. Bodies should be regulated and officials trained to a professional standard and regulated.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But for the right to appeal and an independent regulator to consider the case if required.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

On the one hand yes, to have the national standard and to set and monitor professional standards. But this does need to happen with the professional bodies too e.g. AOIC.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of the meaning here...

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it should be expected and monitored but concerns about possible spiralling costs of CPD and the quality of it. Would this be rigidly stipulated? National CPD programme? The monitoring of the quality and standards of the CPD offered? As a teacher I recognise the varying levels of the quality of consultancy and training offered and the varying costs too!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please recognise Independent Celebrants in the wording of this question and not just non-religious Celebrants.

- 1) A - yes
- 1) B - wording changed as 'impediments' not used by many today - outdated terminology.
- 2) Yes
- 3) Yes
- 4) Yes

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To reflect the couples attitudes, beliefs, non-beliefs, spirituality, nationality, cultural elements that have meaning to the couple.



Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremonies should be designed with meaning to the couples with the legal wording/certificate included with formal and standardised up-to-date wording.

Please share your views below:

Prayers, readings, lyrics of songs, music, rituals such as lighting candles...

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No need for the two ceremonies if Independent and Humanist Celebrants and other world religious faith leaders were legally recognised here too!

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

GDPR? Personal ceremony?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With COVID outdoor weddings needed. Flexibility of choices to have the ceremony at a location that has meaning for them. Improved opportunities for multiple business locations too! As long as the officiant is recognised.

Please share your views below:

Should be able to take place where the couple wish as long as officiant is legally recognised.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Once again Independent Celebrants need to be considered here and not just Humanist Celebrants.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Safe - risk assessment down to venue?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiant would then know it is 'safe' and do not need to conduct independent checks.

Please share your views below:

Local councils - monitored, onsite visits/checks, paperwork with risk assessments. Renewals needed.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why is occupation of parent(s) required? What purpose does this serve?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of choice

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Modern and practical

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

May be necessary for some individuals

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why would they? If they were legally recognised then no need for this, no longer an issue.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Legal recognition of venue needed.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

May not be practical if in hospital and barrier nursing in place.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If Independent and Humanist Celebrants are recognised to issue it too.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Online ceremonies to be recognised too

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yachts, punts, canal boats, cruisers and other examples.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why not the name of the officiant?

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But also registered Independent and Celebrants be able to conduct in these circumstances.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Or a legally recognised Independent Celebrant

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes... cruise ships

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fax/online?

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Transport costs covered ... means tested and covered by local council if not?

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

2) yes

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of choice and preference of style and venue of ceremony

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Flexibility for Independent Celebrants to pay a health & safety consultant to check if necessary and their cost covered.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should it be scaled for the size of the venue? Big corporate venue compared to private garden?

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not required if Independent Celebrant legally recognised. Do not need both officiants present.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

? Such as?

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Means tested?

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrant choice

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Start up Celebrant business costs and little revenue..

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Many couples enquire about the flexibility that an Independent Celebrant offers but 90% put off with the time and money needed to have the legal part conducted separate, so many reluctantly have just the Registrar and miss out on the ceremony and venue of their preferred choice. Many couples unaware of the separate legalities required or how to go about it. Many prefer the personal consultations offered by Independent Celebrants and the rehearsal options too. They can write their own words, include rituals and customs that have meaning to them and allow interfaith and fusion ceremonies too. Many would book Celebrants if they were legally recognised too as they are in Scotland and other countries too. The legislation needs to reflect the multi-cultural and multi-faith and secular positions of couples in Eng/Wales. They should have the free will to have the ceremony where, when and how they want, with a regulated officiant including Independent Celebrants. The current legislation is out-dated and bias towards Christian clergy and Registrar led ceremonies.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many couples cannot afford to pay for two parts... the Independent Celebrant led ceremony and the legalities. So often turn away from their preferred ceremony with a Celebrant led ceremony. This impacts on their rights and experiences.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples would no longer need 2 parts with the two costs... less time off work, more practical and the legal recognition of Celebrant led ceremonies would be a game changer with only one legally recognised ceremony needed, financially, practically and emotionally.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Registrars in 2021 and beyond in extra demand due to rescheduled/postponed ceremonies due to the pandemic. There are not enough Registrars to fill the demand next year.

Many couples have had intimate registrar led ceremonies during the pandemic but planning their 'real' or 'sequel' wedding ceremony next year. Independent Celebrants need to be legally recognised to officiate to calm the storm of 2021 and demand.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

So many ceremonies have been postponed and rescheduled due to covid. Registrars cannot cope with demand. Couples concerned and annoyed that Independent Celebrants not recognised legally when their ceremonies are meaningful and professional. Independent Celebrants have had clients cancel this year and the impact on revenue has been astronomical. If Celebrants legally recognised venues can afford more flexibility to place, timings to their customers. Many venues report the business relationship is positive with the flexibility celebrants afford their clients and their business opportunities. Celebrants being legally recognised will allow more marriages to take place assisting with the multiple layers of other businesses involved in the industry. Far wider economic benefit for businesses at a time when many have had to close.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Flexibility offered to couples within their locality. Increased business and economics for the area.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Limiting currently

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Flexibility, freedoms and practical benefits

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Increased opportunities and business chances

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

4. Costs - CPD, vetting, training, membership fees to join independent professional association, cost to contribute to national standing regulatory body, materials to purchase e.g. certificates, insurances...

Positives- legal recognition, more business as couple no longer need '2' ceremonies and less costs for them. More choice of location, timings, flexibility and options for couples. Ripple effect of increased weddings on economy and other businesses in the area. Modern approach to wedding ceremonies reflecting the multicultural, multifaith and non-faith views of residents in Eng/Wales, inline with other countries.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDEW-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-16 10:12:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am a Family Celebrant and have missed out on so many weddings as couples mistakenly thought that the ceremony I perform is a legal binding one. I point out to them that the ceremony is not legal and that some time in the future Celebrants hope that the wedding ceremony they perform will be a legal one.

Some couples do not wish to pay for a Registrar and then a Celebrant.

By being included on the public list of officiants, couples won't have to trawl through web pages to find a Celebrant and will have the choice of whether to have a Registrar or Celebrant in one go.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDFU-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-16 11:32:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

please keep my details confidential. As well as being a new Independent Celebrant I am also employed by a local council as a [REDACTED] and have been asked not to mix the two. i.e, don't advertise my services/work in the same county.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Other than during total lockdown I have been performing marriage ceremonies as a [REDACTED] These ceremonies have been shortened (by our heads of department) to ensure we don't spend too much time in the company of others to minimise the risk to us. Therefore, there is no personalisation and much less flexibility in the style and content of the ceremony. Other aspects of the ceremony have also been removed e.g. the mock signing of the Register/photo opportunities, the best man can no longer hand over the rings (basically making him redundant) and at one point we weren't even allowed to present the couple with their marriage certificate.

The whole 'feeling' of the ceremony changed; some couples found it much more intimate but others just wanted to get the deed over with and are hoping to have a 'full wedding' at a later date.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would help get the process moving quicker

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

to give time to complete any checks necessary

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I still think an in-person interview is a good idea where concerns arise

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, people should still be able to give notice this way to reduce the inconvenience of having to travel etc

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Online would be more accessible for the general public to have the chance to object than just notices in Register offices

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

and extended if need be during times of a pandemic!

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At the time of giving notice, couples may not have even considered what type of wedding they want. So it would be difficult to say for definite who they would like to officiate. If couples are forced to give a name at this point, the celebrant will reserve the date. But once the couple has spoken to the

celebrant they may not 'get on' and wish to change their mind. This puts the celebrant in a bad position regarding their business; they will have already reserved the date and possibly have turned down other work for that day.

I think the couple should be able to give the officiants name at a later date (as soon as known) but perhaps no later than one month before the wedding

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a celebrant with the [REDACTED] we like to support each other in this way

Please share your views below:

Not sure what those other circumstances may be but it's always good to have someone you feel comfortable with to step in if necessary

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

keep the same rules for all

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

should be online the same as others

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

both

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think celebrants, humanists and Registrars should be able to officiate as long as they are all trained to the same level and licensed in some way

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No - if the current process of the Register being signed at the ceremony as one registration officer couldn't complete the ceremony and signing without there being a delay.

Yes - if the process changed to the signing of a 'schedule'

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they've had appropriate training

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As an Independent Celebrant, I don't teach my beliefs to others. I believe each person is entitled to their own beliefs and I deliver their ceremony according to their beliefs, not mine.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

why would a non-religious belief organisation meet for 'worship' if they don't have anything/one to worship?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

if unlawful - exclude

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

'office' doesn't mean experience. I think all officiants should have some level of training so we are all on a level playing field

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There has to be a central register

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - as long as they can show they have had training, have adequate insurance, preferably are a member of a recognised organisation, and undertake CPD

Consultation Question 30:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as above

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Being an Independent Celebrant is my business, and as a business I need to make money to survive, as do all other celebrants. BUT I am not in this business to become rich. I do this because I want to make a difference to someones special day, I want to give them what they want and make them happy. That takes time, effort, and skill, and for that, I expect to be paid.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

as an independent why shouldn't I be authorised and nominated by religious and non-religious?

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, marriage is a solemn occasion and the vows must be taken seriously. But 'around' the vows personalities should be allowed to express themselves.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think they should have a say in what would be classed as a legal marriage and possibly the words to be said, but not about the rest of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is an appeal procedure

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as above

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it has to be in line with the wishes of the couple

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

not sure

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. What difference should it make whether you are under a gazebo or by a riverside? It's the ceremony that is important not the location.

Please share your views below:

no limits should be imposed unless it poses a risk to health and safety - a risk assessment should be undertaken beforehand

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should undertake a basic H&S risk assessment if it's not already a public venue

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At least one area of the location is kept dignified for the ceremony

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessarily. As long as officiants have some level of H&S risk assessment.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

possibly given 'pre-approval for a period of 2 years then to be reviewed

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

for ancestry purposes, this would be good

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If celebrants have to return the schedule in person this will limit where they can work, so electronic registration would be a good thing

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

not sure

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

not sure

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

death bed weddings should still be allowed. Unsure of how the others work

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

providing there is time

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If possible/known when giving notice

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

If they are not given the choice then it could be seen as discriminatory

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

or get it scanned and sent by email

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

not sure - there may be hardship cases involved

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this depends on the circumstances and the location.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is an affordable fee for celebrants and not used to make a profit

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe these proposals will give couples much more choice and make it more convenient for them to get married.

For instance, if a mixed-faith couple wants to marry now, they have to make a difficult decision as to where, and under what faith they legally marry, or opt for a civil ceremony which neither of them would totally agree with. By creating more officiants these couples will be able to have a ceremony that is in keeping with both their faiths and beliefs.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Although register office weddings are available in each county, it's often the case that they are only available in certain towns i.e. not at all register offices. This then means it is more expensive for the couple to travel to those offices.

The registration service charge much more to attend an approved venue than they do to attend an approved council venue making it very expensive for couples who then have room hire etc on top

I believe most couples would like their ceremony to be what they want but also legal, but more and more are realising that using a celebrant and doing the legal bit separate can often be a less expensive option. If celebrants were to become officiants then this would hopefully reduce costs for couples

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

as above

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

a/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Many more venues would be able to host weddings without having to be licensed by the local council. This cost-saving could be passed on to the couple. This also gives the couple more choice and availability.

Registration officers are generally only available during the day. Using independent officiants means they could marry at whatever time they wanted. The venues could offer much more choice to couples as to what part of the location they wanted to marry and how the venue is used

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities have a 'monopoly' on weddings. If a venue wants to offer weddings they have to be licensed which costs them a lot of money (every 3 years - not sure if this is every county) There is an approval process and not all venues would meet the criteria because they couldn't afford to. The local authority make a lot of money out of weddings and don't always give value for money.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

not sure



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDE1-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-16 15:55:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I'm happy for my responses to be public

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDER-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-16 17:54:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Ceremonies booked were cancelled or postponed

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews need to be done by the celebrant/registrar who will conduct the actual ceremony but ideally should be done in person as we are officiating at probably the most personal event in the couple's life remote interviewing can prevent the interaction between them and the officiant

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Of course it should. Common sense needs to be employed.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Cannot think of any other circumstances

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? The proposal needs explanation

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I see no need to change

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Meeting couples separately is not always convenient if one lives away. Its an outmoded view

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Separate declarations are a good idea but attending separately is not always practical

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Such a proposal i find offensive. The church does not need to be usurped by civil authorities. This would be a step too far.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to a point. A Celebrant should be given the same status as a registrar

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As more couples want a more personal ceremony conducted by a Celebrant who has spent many hours with them devising a ceremony that fits their beliefs and personalities it is common sense a Celebrant should have the same authority as a registrar to officiate legally.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why two?. Waste of money.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this is anyone other  
than the vicar a resounding NO.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should decide who they want to officiate at such a prrsonal event rather than have someone they dont know foisted on them

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This favours humanists not not others who have different beliefs

Please share your views below:

There should be a list and it should include Civil Celebrants who cater for all beliefs not just Humanists

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No one should be officiating a wedding if they dont have strong beliefs about marriage

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It goes without saying no one should officiate if an eveny is unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This cannot come soon enough

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants have to cover their costs and the time working with a couple devising a Ceremony. This can be many hours over many months.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants travel all over the country on recommendation and fees have to reflect this.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No one should be officiating a ceremony unless they are dignified and behave with solemnity

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As a member of a professional body of Celebrants I do not need to be told how weddings should be conducted. We have a code of conduct and I find Question 36 patronising and insulting

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The professional body to which most Celebrants belong would do this automatically

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe, not enough information on what constitutes further professional development.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The Lords Prayer

Readings from the Bible with specific meaning to both or either party

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The venue should be chosen by the couple and allowed if it doesn't constitute a danger

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:



In the circumstance of terminal illness or being house bound the law should allow weddings to take place as soon as possible without all the res tape.

I personally do not agree to prison weddings.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Time is of the essence in most cases. The need for interviews may not be practical and is it really necessary in these circumstances. I think not

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be standard across the board

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No fee

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I know of people who have not entered into marriage because they wanted to be officially married by a Civil Celebrant known to them not a stranger and would not pay a stranger to utter script words that are meaningless to them As

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDE3-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-16 18:04:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a Celebrant and I have officiated many non-legally binding marriages for couples who wish to have a personalised, meaningful wedding ceremony that reflects their beliefs, ideas and personalities held in the location of their choice.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I make it completely clear to my couples that their wedding ceremony is not legally binding; it is in my contract.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My couples wish to have a Celebrant ceremony for a variety of reasons.

1. They want a personalised ceremony that is about love not the legalities
2. They want to include element of religion in their ceremony
3. They are mixed faith and wish to have a wedding ceremony that includes elements from both of their religions
4. They want to hold their wedding ceremony in a venue which is not licensed for legal marriages

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some of my couples have chosen to have a commitment ceremony rather than a legal wedding ceremony and this has been right for them.

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

It is very frustrating for couples that their options for a legally binding marriage ceremony are so restrictive. All my couples would like their Celebrant ceremony to be legally binding. They want a meaningful, personalised ceremony which they don't get with a Registrar or in a place of worship.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As an Independent Celebrant all my couples have rescheduled their wedding ceremonies to 2021, however, many of them have still completed the legal element just so "it is done" I am having an increase in enquiries for 2021 and 2022 from couples who want to have a meaningful, personalised ceremony.

I am very disappointed that the Wedding Industry has been so forgotten about by the Government; funerals have been permitted for up to 30 people with 15 permitted for a wake afterwards, yet weddings have been restricted to 15 people and if the couple are in tier 3 they have not been permitted to have a sit down meal. This does not make sense. The Wedding Industry is very experienced in ensuring everyone is kept safe and deserve parity with the Hospitality sector.

I have received a number of enquiries from couples who had rescheduled their wedding to summer 2021, now deciding that they are willing to go ahead with a smaller, intimate ceremony in the Spring. Couples just want to be married and it is such a shame that they are required to jump through hoops to achieve a meaningful, personalised, legal wedding.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples deserve to be able to be married in the location of their choice. Notice can be given on line.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The in-person interview could be carried out by the Celebrant - I always endeavour to meet my couples before their ceremony. If this is not possible, then would Zoom interviews be possible or on the day of the wedding?

#### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I typically meet my couples for a rehearsal prior to their wedding day, this is often the day before the wedding, however, we could definitely book the rehearsal for 3+ days.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree. I do believe that in the world we are living in, on-line zoom interviews should be acceptable and that if there is any cause for concern then an in-person interview would be required.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be permitted.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes I agree

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, unless there is a case of pandemic, in which case the notice period should be extended free of charge.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, if a couple has booked an Independent Celebrant/Officiant then the contract between the couple and officiant would stand. I don't agree that the registration service should issue an amended schedule with a substitute officiant; couples like to choose their Celebrant.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, however, Independent Celebrants do have a good network of fellow Celebrants, but if the GRO hold a schedule of available Celebrants then that would be acceptable. The contract however is between the couple and the Celebrant - would the booked Celebrant be required to pay the substitute Celebrant in these circumstances?

Please share your views below:

In extenuating circumstances, when the officiant was unable to perform the wedding than yes, I agree with a substitute officiant.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I am not involved in Anglican weddings.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am an Independent Celebrant and I agree with the above recommendations.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Celebrants should be permitted to carry out legally binding civil weddings to ensure that all couples are able to have a meaningful, personalised wedding ceremony in the location of their choice. Ceremonies should be able to reflect faith, no faith, mixed faith and spirituality, currently so many couples are not permitted to have the ceremony that represents their beliefs.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is also worth bearing in mind that Independent Celebrants also offer non-religious ceremonies, but we do not belong to a non-religious belief organisation.

Please share your views below:

I am sure that Humanism UK wish to be the only non-religious belief organisation included in any future legislation, however, there are a number of other non religious belief organisations who should be considered. Non-religious belief organisations should be bound by the same regulations as belief/religious organisations.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Humanism UK do not meet regularly for worship or to further their beliefs - define regularly. Humanism UK also claim to offer non religious ceremonies, however, they do in fact include religion in their ceremonies; they are trying to be all things to all couples. Surely if a couple want a Humanist Wedding - they should be required to be a member of the Humanist UK for a designated time prior to their wedding? It needs to be made completely clear that

Humanist weddings are completely non-religious and must not include religion, there must be no grey areas - they are most definitely treading on the toes of Independent Celebrants who offer non-religious ceremonies but also elements of religious and also mixed faith ceremonies.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

All Humanist Celebrants must be required to follow the rules of delivering non religious ceremonies - too many are open for their own interpretation which causes grey areas!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should nominate individuals who meet the criteria

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that the GRO should be responsible for keeping a public list of all nominated officiants, however, if a couple request a non-religious wedding, they should be provided with both Independent Celebrants and Humanist details so they can make an informed choice.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Completely agree. Couples should be able to have a meaningful wedding ceremony that reflects their ideas, beliefs and personalities, only Independent Celebrants are able to provide ceremonies for the diverse range of couples.

All couples deserve the right to choose the content of their ceremony, whether they have a belief, no faith, mixed faiths, spirituality or wish to include cultural traditions.

All couples deserve the right to choose an approved officiant, including Independent Celebrants.

All couples deserve the right to choose where they are officially and legally married.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, I am an Independent Celebrant and I would expect this to be the case.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I completely agree, Humanist Uk will disagree with this, but they should definitely not be permitted to make profits in the name of their belief. Belief Weddings should not be a profit making exercise.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



I completely agree; Independent Celebrants offer a variety of weddings to suit all couples in various locations, we are Independent, therefore should be free to set our own fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, or you will find Humanist Celebrants also offering ceremonies with religion which are carried out by Independent Celebrants. There needs to be a clear defining line between non-religious belief organisations and Independent Celebrants. Humanists can't have it both ways.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, marriage itself is a serious business, this does not mean that other elements of the ceremony cannot be light hearted and meaningful.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, within reason. There should be rules regarding the legal element of the ceremony, however, the GRO should not dictate the other content of the ceremony. Guidance is welcome, but an approved Independent Celebrant should be permitted to write a ceremony that reflects a couple's beliefs and ideas and also be able to include guests and family members and symbolic ceremonies.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes there needs to be a standard that is adhered to.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, there should be standards that are maintained by all officiants.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I agree that in order for standards to be maintained, Independent Celebrants should be monitored by the GRO, but where there is concerned, the GRO should also liaise with the Training Body that the Celebrant is associated with.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, will there be an annual registration fee?

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, it is absolutely essential that Independent Celebrants are constantly carrying out CPD. However, there are many ways that a Celebrant can complete CPD, across many different training organisations and online forums. However, the CPD provided by the GRO is essential in order for Ind Celebrants to keep abreast of marriage legislation etc.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree with your recommendations.

### Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, this is very important. Couples must be allowed to include content in their ceremony that is meaningful to them.

Please share your views below:

Religious rituals or traditions

Religious readings/poems

Music with religion included

Spiritual rituals/traditions

### Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

### Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely agree, a couple should be able to hold their wedding in the location of their choice, as long as it is safe to do so.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Legal Weddings should be permitted in ALL of the above locations as long as it is safe to do so and not in a dangerous location.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes civil weddings should be permitted to take place on land which is not publicly accessible. This will allow weddings to take place on private land.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe that religious weddings should take place in a non-religious venue and also that a non-religious belief organisation would wish to carry out a wedding in a religious place of worship. This does not seem logical. However, a civil wedding which might include some religious elements pertaining to that particular religion could be carried out in the relevant place of worship.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, however, guidelines provided by the GRO should be used to ascertain whether the location is suitable.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, I don't want to officiate a wedding in an unsafe location and for the ceremony not to have dignity, however, a wedding can be light-hearted and meaningful to the couple. Dignified probably needs to be clarified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See my answer above, this guidance would be most welcome.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely, I would always want to ensure that the location is suitable prior to the wedding.

Please share your views below:

The officiant should send the GRO guidelines to the couple prior to the wedding, requesting their confirmation that all the guidelines should be adhered to. The couple would sign and return the document confirming that the location meets the GRO requirements. Ideally this should take place at the time of booking the officiant.

If the officiant is concerned in any way they should arrange to visit the venue/location and discuss concerns with the couple. Only once the couple have addressed these concerns should the officiant also sign the "location document" giving their approval.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree.

I have had a request from one of my couples that Mother of the Groom/Bride should also be included in the marriage document/register. I am pleased to see that this has been addressed.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am located in England, so I would only wish to see marriages registered in English. However, I accept that this is different in Wales and couples should be permitted to register their marriage in Welsh as long as the officiant also speaks/reads Welsh.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would really streamline the process.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with points 1, 2 and 3, however, with point 4, this refers to religious governing authorities. I am an Independent Celebrant and I would be carrying out a Civil Ceremony where couples of all sexuality are welcome.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Completely agree

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree a couple need to both consciously agree to be legally married, not automatically be considered married if they have lived together for a certain period!

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Completely agree

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

All persons should be permitted to legally marry as long as the legal requirements are met for the ceremony ie. dignified and safe.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes I agree

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes I agree

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes i agree

### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this is a very important proposal and I wholeheartedly agree. During the pandemic, couples have been unable to legally marry and this has been incredibly difficult for many. To be able to remotely marry a couple is extremely important in emergency situations.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree, couples of all persuasions and sexuality.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes i agree

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes I agree, weddings at sea should be permitted.

### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely agree

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I believe that weddings should be permitted on all vessels of a certain size - I officiated a wedding ceremony on board a small pleasure boat in the waters of the Greek Island of Paros last year for a British couple and I would very much have liked to have been permitted to have conducted a legal wedding as they were a British Couple.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree regarding the name of the vessel, however, I think it is important that the officiant is registered to carry out legal weddings.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, see my answer to Question 70 - Independent Celebrants should be permitted to carry out legal weddings in international waters for British citizens.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes I agree

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, I believe that registered Independent Celebrants should also be permitted to carry out weddings on ships/cruise boats in international waters, if the couple are British citizens.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes there definitely is demand for weddings at sea in international waters by Independent Celebrants, couples love the idea of having their wedding at sea.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Compassion must be applied

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes couples should have a choice in where they legally marry.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the officiant should be able to ensure a location is safe and dignified and this cost should be included in the officiant's fee.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would make it simpler for everyone.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is the case currently. RO charge fees similar to Celebrants for visiting venues to carry out legal marriage. However Celebrants create a personalised ceremony and spend many more hours on the script, whereas RO use cut and paste templates.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, however, Independent Celebrants should be permitted to charge a fee that reflects the time and personalised service they provide.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes i agree, but Independent Officiants are permitted to charge for their personalised service.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

This will depend on the couple's circumstances. If they are financially unable to pay the discounted fee, then compassion should be applied.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I fully expect to pay a fee to register to become an authorised officiant.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law restricts couples from having a meaningful ceremony in the location of their choice. Many couples don't realise they have the option of a Celebrant-led ceremony and even those that do, find having to separate the legal registration from their meaningful ceremony time consuming and complicated. The LRO also do not make it clear on their websites that the option of a 2+2 civil ceremony is available, this costs under £50 but the LRO often only make one slot per week available between 9am and 12pm one day per week. This is putting couples who want a meaningful celebrant ceremony at a disadvantage and they are being discriminated against.

The current law also discriminates against couples from mixed faith to have a meaningful ceremony.

The current law only permits couples to have their marriage in a place of worship, the LRO or a licensed venue. This does not cater for all couples who wish to have a meaningful ceremony.

Provisional proposals would definitely allow ALL couples to have a meaningful ceremony in the location of their choice, we have a diverse country, with diverse beliefs and these proposals will ensure that all couples are given the choice in who conducts their ceremony where it is held and the content of their ceremony. This is really good news.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs and complicated process of legal marriage is completely unsatisfactory.

Register Office Weddings are cut and paste and do not offer meaningful personalised ceremonies yet they charge very high fees.

Register Officers who officiate at approved premises charge a very high fee for a cut and paste ceremony and pack a number of ceremonies into one day.

During peak season, Register Officers are overstretched and couples are not able to have ceremonies on the date and time that they prefer. If Independent Celebrants were permitted to carry out legal marriage, this would not longer be an issue.

Register Officers often officiate a number of ceremonies per day which does not allow for flexibility and ceremonies are kept short and to the point. Independent Celebrants typically only carry out one ceremony a day and really get to know their couples prior to the wedding. We will not be rushing off to conduct another ceremony, we will provide a personalised meaningful service that the couple will enjoy.

Currently a couple who wish to have their wedding in a location which is not licensed for legal marriage have to separate the registration of their marriage from their wedding ceremony. This is costly and time consuming. Register Offices do not make it easy for couples to do this; a 2+2 civil ceremony costs approximately £46.50 yet Register Offices don't advertise this clearly on their websites and only offer one morning per week availability. Couples often have to pay for a large ceremony room when there is only them and two witnesses, this adds to their cost. They also have to pay their Celebrant fee. If a Celebrant was permitted to carry out legal marriage, then this would save the couple time and money and make the whole experience much more enjoyable.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There is restricted availability for Register Office weddings for the no frills 2+2 civil ceremonies. This is unacceptable. Couples should be able to complete the legal registration at minimal cost if this is what they choose. Register Offices currently don't make option readily available too couples.

Couples would be able to have legal weddings in their gardens or on private land and not have to pay the increasingly high fees of licensed venues that is currently the case. Clearly some couples are happy to hold their wedding in licensed venues, but they would also have a choice of where in that venue they hold their ceremony - they will not be restricted to licensed areas, they can hold their ceremony anywhere - in the gardens if they wish and outdoor ceremonies are becoming increasingly popular.

There are a limited amount of Registrars available and this leads to many couples not being able to have their wedding on the date and time they prefer. Couples would really benefit from having a choice in who officiates their wedding - they will have a fantastic choice of Independent Celebrants.

Many couples want to get married in a location that is meaningful to them; their family home, woodland, on a beach etc. These new proposals would allow couples to have their wedding in a location of their choice and they would also be able to have a wedding to suit their budget. This could definitely be a financial benefit too many.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Many venues have to pay costs for having areas in their premises licensed. There are separate fees for each licensed location. The new proposals would eliminate this additional cost for venues as it would be the officiant that was licensed. Weddings can then be held anywhere in their venue and they would not have to provide a fixed structure in which the wedding needs to take place.

During peak wedding season venues are often unable to fulfil bookings as Register Officers are not available on the date/time that a couple wish to hold their ceremony, this means a loss in revenue.



There are an increasing number of venues who are keeping Celebrants on their recommended suppliers lists for these such situations - so they are able to offer couples an alternative. These proposals would allow venues to be able to fulfil bookings as there would be increased officiant options available.

I am a recommended suppliers in 26 local venues, many of whom would have lost their bookings if they weren't able to offer the option of a Celebrant ceremony. All of the venues who have experienced a Celebrant ceremony have agreed that it is the most personalised and meaningful ceremony they have experienced. Venues love working with Celebrants - they can see the value that is added to their client's experience.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Venues would be able to hold weddings anywhere on their premises and not be restricted to licensed areas. This would be financially better for venues as currently they need to pay for each licensed area and ensure there is a fixed structure in which the ceremony will be held.

Venues will not be reliant on Registrars being available to officiate the wedding, they will be able to offer couples the option of an Independent Celebrant to allow them to have a meaningful ceremony.

There is a huge increase in business possibilities for venues as many couples want a wedding outdoors and not all wedding venues have licensed outdoor areas currently.

Unlicensed venues will also greatly benefit from these proposals, as they will be able to offer weddings on their premises, this will greatly increase revenue.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am sure that the revenue currently made by licensing premises and also Registrars officiating weddings will be recouped by the licensing of officiants and also licensing of premises.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not know the benefits to local authorities.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not have anything to add.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Huge benefits to couples in England and Wales - they will be able to:

- Choose who officiates their wedding
- Choose the location of their wedding
- Choose the content of their wedding
- Not be tied to expensive licenced venues
- Have a meaningful ceremony
- Not be pressured by the Registrar to be on time
- Not feel part of a conveyor belt with the GRO

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

4. Independent Officiants and/or
5. couples

There would be an increased cost to officiants in having to complete the necessary training, however, I would hope that experience is also taken into account. However the increased cost in becoming a registered officiant should be recouped in the increased amount of wedding ceremonies per year.

Couples would definitely save time and money in the new proposals and be able to have a meaningful ceremony when and where they wish.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDQ1-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-17 15:56:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Rachael Clawson

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Centre for Social Work  
(My Marriage, My Choice)  
School of Sociology and Social Policy  
University of Nottingham

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::  
On behalf of my research project team

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am responding to this consultation from a safeguarding perspective. Much of my research has been in relation to improving safeguarding policy and practice on forced marriage - specifically for people with learning disabilities who may or may not have capacity to consent. In many cases, parents are seeking a carer for their son or daughter and would not see lacking capacity to consent as being linked to forced marriage.

Removing the 7 day residency clause removes another layer of safeguarding as the 7 day period could be used by someone being forced to marry to alert safeguarding professionals.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree with this only if the persons giving notice MUST then be interviewed, separately, in person. I would not agree with any movement towards the whole process moving online. This could seriously impact upon the safety and wellbeing of people being forced to marry. What is happening 'off camera' (in terms of coercion or threats to individuals etc) cannot be seen and it may additionally be easier to coach someone with out capacity to consent to give the 'right' answers.

The preliminary stage of the wedding, or giving notice, must be accompanied by a robust safeguarding system. The part of the process is crucial in ascertaining whether or not a person is freely giving consent and/or has the mental capacity, as judged by the Mental Capacity Act 2005, to give consent.

Currently, the concept of what constitutes 'capacity to consent' is little understood yet it is vital in ensuring the human right to marry is upheld and that right to protection from harm is also recognised and appropriately responded to. Assessing capacity to consent can be a lengthy process that requires specific expertise. It is unfair and unwise to expect this to be done by marriage registrars with little understanding, training or guidance.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I would ask that 7 days be the absolute minimum to be considered. Again, time is needed for individuals at risk of forced marriage to seek help. In addition, time might be required to assess capacity of a person's ability to consent to marriage. If a multi-agency assessment is required this will take longer than 7 days.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely not. This again removes another layer of safeguarding. My research, and experience of providing training to marriage registrars, demonstrates that they do not have the knowledge, skills or training to recognise or deal with forced marriage, particularly where capacity to consent may be in question. (Please see link to research report here <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/mymarriagemychoice/documents/summary-full.pdf>). It could be extremely difficult to tell if someone was a risk from an online interview. What is happening 'off screen' cannot be seen and it is therefore difficult to ascertain whether or not someone is at risk of harm.

A lot is expected from registrars, my experience is that further guidelines and support is required in the field of forced marriage and capacity to consent. I am currently working in partnership with registrars to develop practice guidelines. More training is required.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Only if this is followed up by a face to face interview.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I fully support this - notice of marriage should be publically accessible in this format. This could help safeguard people at risk of forced or predatory marriage.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do agree with this, however equally robust safeguards should also be in place for the day of the ceremony as a person's capacity to consent to marriage could change (eg due to dementia) over that period of time.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant must be adequately skilled and trained to recognise forced and predatory marriage and understand issues/law relating to capacity to consent to marriage.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant must be adequately skilled and trained to recognise forced and predatory marriage and understand issues/law relating to capacity to consent to marriage.

Please share your views below:

I think substituting should only happen in exceptional circumstances listed above.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, all banns should be published online for reasons given earlier.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Clergy should the couple separately and should be required to undergo the same training as marriage registrars in relation to forced and predatory marriage and capacity to consent. Again, our research found that religious leaders across all faiths have little understanding of how capacity to consent can and should be assessed. If concerns about capacity arise, it should not be assessed on the basis of one brief meeting with a person who lacks expertise in this area of practice.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

If all weddings were preceded by civil preliminaries basic safeguards could be put in place and clear policies and protocols could underpin all weddings. Having different policies, training, expectations, value bases etc can lead to discrimination and unsafe practice.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Added to this list should be 'have the capacity to consent to marriage'. Freely expressing consent is different to having capacity to consent. Many people with learning disabilities or people with dementia may present as very happy to be getting married but not really understand what this actually means.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I wholeheartedly agree with this. Performing wedding ceremonies carries huge responsibility for financial and emotional well being in addition to a person's safety. Only persons with appropriate training should perform this function.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with this. Having only one person present puts them at risk if they need to call a halt to the ceremony for any reason.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if they are mandated to undergo safeguarding training and have duties placed upon them to safeguard vulnerable adults from harm.

I believe there should be clear policies and protocols that anyone recognised as an officiant should be expected to adhere to. There is a need for a clear Code of Conduct which sets out duties and expectations in relation to safeguarding practice for all weddings.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - if all adhere to common expectations and duties as set out above.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer above.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Only if a central register is held which details training undertaken to perform the role.

A level of recognised (and accredited?) training should be undertaken, to include training on forced and predatory marriage and capacity to consent, by every nominated officiant.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A level of recognised (and accredited?) training should be undertaken, to include training on forced and predatory marriage and capacity to consent, by every nominated officiant.

I would argue that all officiants should undergo a DBS check and be capable of being referred to the 'barring' list where appropriate.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is perhaps something for future consideration once the system for officiants as defined in previous sections works well. There are currently many gaps in safeguarding policy, process and practice and much work needs to be undertaken to address this before consideration of independent officiants being included.

I would like to see more formal training in place for all officiants that leads to an recognised, accredited qualification.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would 'fit and proper' be defined and by whom? Given the problems organised religion has had with recognising and adequately responding to abuse and safeguarding I would argue there needs to be a way of centralising what is required. Any definitions need to be recognised across the board and not differ between organisations.

As said above, I would like to see more formal training in place for all officiants that leads to an recognised, accredited qualification. I would equally like to see a requirement for organisations to sign up to a central Code of Conduct in relation to weddings

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer above.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a minimum fee set by Government - this should not be set too low so as to provide a deterrent for forced/predatory marriage.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the status of this guidance should be Statutory.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, however, all organisations need to fully understand duty and responsibility relating to safeguarding and reporting, we must learn lessons from safeguarding scandals relating to the Church. The duties and responsibilities need to be set out in Statutory format by the Government.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do agree with this, however, work needs to be undertaken with/by the GRO to ensure their own understanding meets with required safeguarding standards. I would suggest the GRO works in consultation with organisations/individuals with safeguarding expertise to develop policy and guidance.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but please see above.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think officiants should be registered on an annual basis and be required to demonstrate CPD. Given their duty to safeguard, officiants should be required to demonstrate CPD to maintain registration.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this but we need to be sure that all parties understand the issue of capacity to consent and raise a safeguarding alert if appropriate.

Capacity to consent to marriage (using here the term 'capacity' as outlined in the Mental Capacity act 2005) is crucial and means more than simply agreeing or repeating vows word for word (people can be coached in this). Lacking capacity to consent to marriage means any marriage would be deemed as forced marriage under s121 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Victims of forced marriage can experience harm and



abuse, this applies to both the person lacking capacity and their spouse who may not know they are marrying someone without capacity until the ceremony itself.

Clear guidance is needed for both recognising when capacity to consent may need assessing and for halting a ceremony if necessary.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a minimum number of 'official' words to form the ceremony - fewer words could mean people who lack capacity to marry may not be recognised as such.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see above.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This again would remove a layer of safeguarding for vulnerable adults.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This again weakens any safeguarding of vulnerable adults/adults with learning disabilities and those who lack capacity to consent to marriage. For example allowing weddings to take place in a family home could mean that any safeguarding issues regarding the vulnerable adult may not be recognised and acted upon. Some vulnerable adults are purposely isolated from the community outside their own home isolated by family members.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Please see above - the more isolated the venue the greater the risk that any safeguarding issues may not be recognised.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see reasons cited earlier relating to the recognition of safeguarding concerns.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More robust guidance is required from Government on approved locations. Safeguarding adults (and children) has to be of paramount concern in decisions made regarding where weddings can take place. The more private the venue the greater the risks. The decision should not be made by one person - this places huge responsibility upon them.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer above.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Robust statutory guidance is required rather than guidance officiants can choose to follow or not.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

These are two separate issues.

I would agree with pre-approval process but not if the approval were to be granted by the officiant. A more robust process is required.

Please share your views below:

The GRO need to hold responsibility for this.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not entirely sure what the implications of this would be.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses play a crucial role in endorsing a marriage - removing the need for witnesses again weakens safeguarding of vulnerable adults. Not requiring witnesses could make it easier for someone to be forced or marry or for predatory marriages to take place.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Robust guidance and training is required for officiants whose role includes identifying lack of capacity to consent due to learning disability or mental ill health.

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages of victims of forced marriage and marriages of people with learning disabilities who lack capacity to consent to marriage may not come to light for a number of years.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Clear guidance and training is required to ensure both parties are fully consenting and both have capacity to consent. This is clearly a difficult and emotive time for people marrying under such difficult circumstances, officiants will need support with decision making.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Robust safeguards need to be in place to ensure the person has capacity to consent and is freely giving of consent.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't fully understand the implications of this.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with any of the proposals above. All could significantly impact upon safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. Any system which does not require people to be seen in person can increase the likelihood of harm and abuse, both for people with learning disabilities who may be isolated and not have the skills to raise concerns for themselves and for potential victims of forced marriage. Anything that makes marriage easier to do makes safeguarding more difficult. The current system requires improvement in relation to safeguarding - implementing the measures suggested above would be a step backwards.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with emergency provisions.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure how 'at risk of death' would be determined and by whom and so cannt comment on this.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this weakens safeguards, particularly if the ceremony was to be conducted by the Captain of the ship who may not be fully trained in relation to understanding capacity to consent.

Conducting marriage or civil partnership ceremonies must be undertaken by trained, registered professional officiants if safeguarding responsibilities are to be adequately assessed/addressed.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer given above.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think the current law discourages or prevents marriages taking place and think many of the provisional proposals in this document, whilst perhaps facilitating an increase in marriages, may also result in numerous safeguards currently in place being removed. I don't think making marriage easier to enter into is a positive step for everyone. There are barriers to adequate safeguarding in the current system, these barriers will increase if many of the proposals are enacted.

Marriage is most often viewed as a joyous occasion which should be enjoyed and celebrated, indeed many of the registrars I have interviewed/trained speak of their role as being one of facilitating marriage. Unfortunately though, marriage is not a happy occasion for all and safeguarding should be seen first and foremost as part of the process. It seems very unfortunate to me that, although marriage registrars are employed by the local authority, they are not included as part of safeguarding arrangements or the safeguarding community, particularly membership of Local Safeguarding Children Boards or Safeguarding Adults Boards. Much responsibility is placed upon them by Government to ensure people without capacity to consent aren't forced into marriage yet they are given very little training, support or guidance in this. My experience is that registrars do not think they get adequate support from the GRO and, although the GRO issues guidance, this is not disseminated to all who need it.

More effort needs to be placed on making the current Registry service more robust - there are pockets of excellent practice from which lessons can be learned. Any process of de-regulating weddings will result in safeguards being lost.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD28-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-17 17:03:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2E-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-17 18:14:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You can go abroad and not have to wait 7 days, as long as you can submit paper work online and then have it checked 48hrs in advance what is the issue.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, online absolutely, let's get into the 21st Century.

Face to face 48 hrs before

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

2 days

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely fine with this

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If there any legal issues that extend further than names being posted then I have no problem with posting

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see what business it is of any body else that you are getting married.

This is very old fashioned.

Does this not go against the right of privacy?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, the officiate may change and this gives no flexibility at all.

It should pure be that it has to be a legally recognised officiate

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it has to be named then yes this would be préfère course of action.

Please share your views below:

Yes, but ideally would not want to have a named officiate but rather a list you can choose from and book on line for that date in that area.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't have an opinion as not religious

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, not religious so have no opinion

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No opinion not religious

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No opinion not religious

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, absolutely there should be a list.

Religion is not necessarily part of modern day life for many so we have to respect and incorporate other recognised view points.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, for sure. This is due diligence on the government's part and is welcomed.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if they fit the criteria previously described.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, to protect us all from obscure beliefs and dictates they as an individual may have.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes and. I, there should also be a way of furthering an issue to a higher office outside of their own organisation as well.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The limit should only be set by number of people safely allowed at venues only.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe there should be a criteria set officially and not down to the personal whim of the officiate

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but again they should not have the right to also have a personal opinion about a location, it should be based on the above criteria

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The persons getting married should seek pre approval along with booking the location.  
This does obvious does not apply if it is a persons home etc.but more if in a public place

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Not interested in having parents information on there it's not relevant at all to the marriage.  
These days a lot of families are separated or don't have contact or know one parent.  
This is a very outdated requirement

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is a fee it should be a standard nominal fee set by government so that local authorities cannot take advantage

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a standard fee across the country

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The law is not modern or flexible enough for society.

We have out off getting married as the rules do not allow us to be married at home or in the garden but rather pay extortionate prices to hotels etc for the use of a room and purely because it's a wedding be asked to pay double for food that would otherwise be half the price.

Also venues are not personal any more and more like a factory process..

Many friends of ours on second potential weddings are holding off to see the legislation change to in corporate more meaningful and flexible places to get married.

Couples we know whom have been together for 15/16 years still won't marry as they don't have the funds for " standard marriage of £20-30k

A licence to print money has been had by hotels etc for too long and discoured many.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Availability is not enough
2. Cost of marrying on approved premises is open for abuse and high costs
3. Not religious don't know
- 4.costs are very high
5. Ridiculous that have to get married at a separate place to where you want to have your reception. Additionally costs, not always able to be on the same day, limited to people you can have.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The ability to use more facilities at register offices would be welcomed though many are grim.
  2. Saving on being able to marry in all locations would be an extreme saving.
- Example- Getting married at home in our garden would save us based on 50 people would save us £10,000 as we wanted to do a tee pee wedding but just the hire of Tee pee, the land etc prevented us.The cost to for food only at home was £1500.00 , then we couldn't get married on the same day at registry office so we decided not to get married but to wait for the law to change.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDE2-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-17 19:11:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Association of Independent Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I totally understand that you cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We wanted a small intimate wedding in our back garden. Not possible under current law so went to a Registry Office with just 2 witnesses as the ceremony lost meaning as we couldn't have what we wanted.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My friend was due to get married on her 65th birthday. It was significant to her that she married on this day. Covid meant that the proposed wedding was delayed twice and ultimately limited guests only were allowed to attend.

In the end my friend got married with 2 witnesses present as they could not decide who could go and who couldn't. It was very stressful and deflating for my friend who was getting married for the 3rd time and so small things were very important to her.

They got married to get the legal bit done but it just had no sentiment to it on the day....very sad as they tried to make it so special!

She is hopefully having a Wedding Celebration next year when she is allowed which her family and friends can attend.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the modern world we live in and people being more nomadic than they used to be it is about time that the laws reflected the communities they are governing.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provides flexibility which will be greatly accepted by people who live flexible lives. Families and lives and how they are lived has changed beyond recognition.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Think this is an adequate length.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible as we live in a world where everything is moving online.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Again it should be possible to reflect the flexibility required in society today.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As previously, life is online these days.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it is a brilliant idea to identify an officiant and of course being able to issue an amendment is vital as you never know what may happen?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See Q11

Please share your views below:

Not without notice...you need to retain regulation etc

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It seems a little mad that they are only publicised in the church where the wedding is to take place and civil weddings are publicised online for all to see?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I believe they should be able to check documentary evidence but I am not sure how necessary it is to meet with the couple separately? Especially in this day in age...

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

If both should for Civil then they should for Anglican.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

If you are changing the laws I think it only fair and non discriminative that all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a fabulous idea. It give couples flexibility and freedom of choice.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree because it does not facilitate flexibility and choice for the couple.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only one is necessary but I feel it is a great step forward to have more than just registration officers to officiate at weddings.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that people should not be recognised just because the virtue of their office. They should have to undergo training and CPD as would any other officiant if granted.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A list would possibly be a good idea provided it do not discriminate towards other groups...maybe a better way would be to get people to apply to be an officiant and have boundaries within which the application could be made. Thus not discriminating towards anyone.

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I don't think dominating people is good enough...it is open to be abused.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea to have records of nominations made, successful candidates, unsuccessful candidates and rational for decisions made.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly agree with this and I strongly agree that everyone should apply and have the same scrutiny applied to each application with no automatic acceptance because of your religious group or rank etc

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be something to ensure applicants are fit for purpose. standard that can be applied across the board.



Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independents do not express their own beliefs anyways! A fair price range should be expected by all anyways. Exploitation should not be allowed!

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independents all do a very similar role but very differently and with many different services and add-ons so it would be difficult to put limits of fees as they offer a great more than the role of a registrar or man of the cloth.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally, independents are professionals so should not be a problem.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree to a point but the who issue is flexibility and choice for the couple. So there should be room for them to add their own flair to proceedings.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some belong to governing bodies or trade associations so they could police it too?

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally agree, as an independent myself I undertake continual professional development.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally so that it reflects the diverse needs of society.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Totally, as an independent I would stand down and suggest a minister is more appropriate should the content be too religious. e.g. all or the majority of the elements are religious...

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strongly agree with this as it promotes choice and does not discriminate anyone

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Excellent idea they risk assess venues anyways so with guidance through training it would be feasible.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The venue ultimately should be responsible to show that their venue is suitable and this could be overseen by the Registry Office.

If a venue is used repeatably for weddings or designed for wedding specifically then it should be licensed.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think these should be exceptional circumstances.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

A sea worthy boat that is large and substantial enough to accommodate the wedding party e.g. not runner rings etc

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with the first part but I think they should give the name of the officiant they are using

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Depends very much on what the couple wants

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current laws definitely discourage marriage the proposed changes will accommodate the flexible society we live in and I would think that it would increase couples getting married

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2W-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 09:48:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Durham County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The County of Durham Registration Service has experience of couples who have returned from abroad after realising that the ceremony they had was not legal. Either preliminaries were not completed, or paperwork was not in place / correct to enable a legal marriage within their holiday timescale so went ahead with just a celebration type ceremony and required a legal marriage on their return to England.

Couples often misunderstand the legal requirements and believe they can have a ceremony at their chosen location and simply sign some paperwork at the register office. They do not realise that only the Register Office (or appropriate religious venue) can perform the legal marriage. There is some anecdotal information to suggest that this is not made clear by wedding planners/independent celebrants

Other

Please expand on your answer:

responding on behalf of an organisation not an individual

Other

Please expand on your answer:

responding on behalf of an organisation not an individual

Other



Please expand on your answer:

responding on behalf of an organisation not an individual

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The service is aware that it is difficult for those wishing to marry in England but who live or work abroad. They may not be able to fulfil the legal preliminaries that are required because of the expense or time constraints of making multiple trips back to England. Couples in the past have been left with no other option than to have a Legal marriage abroad and a celebration renewal of vows with their family and friends in England.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The ceremony team have experienced thousands of telephone calls and emails, from devastated couples who could not have the wedding they had planned. Weddings have been moved several times as the legislation and guidance has changed, and numbers of guests reduced or wedding receptions not able to proceed. Registrar General Licence marriages, have been The ceremony team have experienced thousands of telephone calls and emails, from devastated couples who could not have the wedding they had planned. Weddings have been moved several times as the legislation and guidance has changed, and numbers of guests reduced or wedding receptions not able to proceed. Registrar General Licence marriages, have been difficult to facilitate due to extra COVID risks. Ensuring the Register Office ceremony rooms were socially distanced and COVID secure meant guest numbers were reduced and could not accommodate the 30 permitted under government guidelines. This caused distress for couples choosing which family could attend.

There were a number of instances where notices to marry expired during lockdown and a new notice was required. This had a particular impact on Couples returning from abroad to marry who did not have time/resources to return to England to enable a further notice to be given.

Where new notices have been required because of the Pandemic, the local authority has not charged an additional notice fee.

Cancellation of ceremonies and the waiver of fees has impacted on the local authority's income. Re-arranging hundreds of weddings and reassuring couples as government guidelines and lockdowns were implemented and fitting in additional appointments caused additional strain on staff resources and a loss of income.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People work abroad, and it is difficult for them to keep coming back to England to complete legalities using holidays and the expense of flights. Other couples may work in a different district to their home address and would find it more convenient to use their local registration service.

Couples who are being married in one district whilst living in another may prefer to complete all the legal requirements with the district covering their marriage

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree as this would allow the process to start while the couple were out of England or busy working and then have an interview at a more convenient time.

#### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow couples time when returning from abroad to complete the process. It would also allow time to correct any errors, produce missing documents before the schedule was issued.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews potentially make it more difficult to detect concerns regarding sham, forced marriages or capacity to consent. It will not be possible to see whether there are other people present in the room off camera seeking to influence the interviewee's responses. It may also be harder to read the interviewee's body language. The ability to hold in-person interviews in certain circumstances may lead to concerns that particular communities/ethnic or faith groups are unfairly 'singled out'. It would be fairer to have the same interview arrangements for all.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, unless the two- step notice option was adopted and then this provision would not be required

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We consider this to be an excellent idea. It would enable anyone to view notices for those getting married regardless of where the notice has been given. This would be helpful if notices are no longer to be given in the district of residence as that is the basis for searches used presently.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, however provision should be made to extend in national emergency situations

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could be problematic in the event that the Officiant changes at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances. It may also cause difficulties planning staff rotas in advance. An alternative could be to have a designation clerk in holy orders/ registrar if they are officiants as a direct result of the employment by the church or local authority and only have the name if the officiant does not fall within that category .  
The request to have a schedule amended at the request of the couple would have resource implications for the registration service unless a cost recovery fee was introduced.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this proposal is taken forward consideration needs to be given to who would be responsible for checking that the substitute Officiant meets the legal requirements.

Please share your views below:

If this proposal is taken forward consideration needs to be given to who would be responsible for checking that the substitute Officiant meets the legal requirements.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All couples should follow the same legal preliminaries. If these were all published on the same national data base (as per the proposal above) this would provide greater transparency

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

We would propose that all couples should give notice to the registration service to provide for greater transparency/flexibility as to where notices are given.

If Banns are only required to be in the church of the marriage one or neither of the couples may be known in that district. This raises the question as to how an objection to the marriage be raised.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. This would assist with identifying sham marriages and prevent incorrect identities, addresses being recorded

Yes. All couples should regardless of Anglican or civil wedding follow the same requirements and procedures regarding preliminaries.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. All couples should regardless of Anglican or civil wedding follow the same requirements and procedures regarding preliminaries.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

No. A greater transparency would exist if all couples were required to give notice at the register office and appear along with all other intended marriages on a national data base

Yes

Continuing to have this 2-tier system in place could create a perception of disparity/unfairness. One system for all legal marriages would be more inclusive.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nationally registrars are accountable both to General Register Office and the Local Authority. They are thoroughly vetted during recruitment, monitored and receive ongoing appropriate training.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as this would be potentially a means of reducing fees the couple.....

However local authorities may consider requiring 2 staff to be present, where situations or locations posed a health and safety/ duty of care concern in relation to a remote location. We would suggest that these issues are reflected in any fees payable.

#### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, consideration should be given as to whether they are named as individuals or by their title on the schedule. Consideration also needs to be given as to how couples can check that their proposed Officiant meets the legislative requirements and also to what would happen if the Officiant were to move churches prior to the ceremony taking place.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

All churches have a governing body so this would be appropriate.

Yes

However, consideration needs to be given as to who will be the governing organization for independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Political / cult/sects/organisations promoting narrow non-inclusive / illegal or immoral ideology

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as this adapts practices already established for non-conformist church applications

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would avoid schedules having to be amended if clergy move church/ district.

Extra controls in place for non-belief organisations may require only named individuals as a protection measure to cover couples booking officiants who are not attached to a church or register office

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – transparency of who is appointed and security for couples booking officiants

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if approved provided independent officiants are vetted and are affiliated to a governing body

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We would suggest incorporating the guidance from General Register Office on the appointment of a registrar

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A standard fee could be established for officiating a legal marriage and then any additional requirements would be the couple's choice

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All officiations regardless of religious/ civil/ non-religious/ independent officiants should have parity.

A standard fee could be established for officiating a legal marriage and then any additional requirements would be the couple's choice.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1) Yes

There needs to be clear definition outlined for the public to understand the difference and make informed choices

2) Yes

There needs to be clear definition outlined for the public to understand the difference and make informed choices

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, with the ability for concerns to be raised to report to General Register Office/or relevant local authority trading standards

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided they are following guidelines and any ongoing training has been completed

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, This is the final opportunity to verify vital information

No, they could have provided false evidence or omitted to provide accurate marital status using previous divorce documents at preliminary stage final chance to prevent void marriage.

Yes, set prescribed wording to be included to express consent would give clarity for couples

Yes

Yes

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The governing body would be able to continue the practice of officiating at only weddings where the couple have the belief of that group

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow couples to have greater freedom in the content of their ceremony.

Please share your views below:

The most requested are an occasional hymn as memory from childhood rather than because it is religious is Ave Maria which many don't appreciate is religious, Christmas carols in December weddings, Love is passage from Corinthians and "in sickness and health till death us do part"

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We suggest that this should be left as an option for the couple to choose, in some cases an individual minister will conduct a blessing where the Couple are not able to have a legal religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be able to have only invited guests in attendance

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, providing appropriate risk assessments are in place

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

1) Providing a risk assessment is in place and a clear identification can be shown on the marriage schedule.

2 & 3) difficult in the case of weddings in the air on lakes and rivers to define place of marriage on the schedule would the schedule need to be signed on land

4) Providing a risk assessment is in place and a clear identification can be shown on the marriage schedule

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as this will enable private property / private land to be used for a marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would limit a couple's choice. Religious venues may have a view as to whether they wish to have their premises used by non-religious/ civil officiants. Therefore some restrictions may be required to provide for religious ceremonies in religious venues and civil weddings in non-religious venues.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, providing guidance was in place from General Register Office, insurance and risk assessments in place to protect those involved in the ceremony

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is vital

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

1) the local authority

2) a system already operates for venues to be licensed so that system could be adapted for this proposal using the guidance produced by General Register Office that is suggested as part of this proposal. Venue could advertise that they were already pre-approved and had marriage, general and fire risk assessment risk assessment in place.

A fee could be set nationally on a cost recovery basis to facilitate this system

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, however consideration needs to be given as to how this would be administered and who would be accountable for the process. Consideration also needs to be given as to who will be responsible for producing marriage certificates.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1) Yes

2) No, 2 witnesses should still be required

3) No, unless marriage is no longer a verbal contract then the schedule would be the evidence

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, system where only one party gives notice operates well and this proposal may cause added physical/mental stress to the person diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if the registrar had the authority to reduce the waiting period and carry out a wedding within few hours. However, given the relatively low number of weddings involving a Registrar Generals Licence, we would query whether this is necessary

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if this simplifies the system however most need to be completed within a day or 2

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would alleviate the pressure on staffing resources to complete these in a reduced time frame

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The pandemic raised awareness of the consequences of not being married with many couples. They were anxious to marry asap for legal protection particularly those in vulnerable categories

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would offer additional options to couples and provide opportunities for companies owning yachts for example to diversify into the wedding market.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We do not have any evidence of such demand/ however many cruise ships have chaplains so could that be an option of a crew member officiating with a chaplain blessing following

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The cost recovery fee would need to account for additional travel and mileage within rural districts and the additional time taken to complete legal preliminaries for housebound and detained notices.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

It is not always the case that those who are terminally ill have financial difficulties.

If the requirement was for only one party to be required to give notice, then that would be half the cost to other couples and would therefore be a compassionate reduction

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided this is on a cost recovery basis

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be useful to have a national timeframe for the time period this would last annual review – 5-year review period

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes,

this should take into consideration factors

Meeting couple to plan ceremony

Script preparation

Rehearsal if requested

Should not penalize registrars from providing a service that would compete with independent celebrants if they were given status to officiate at legal ceremonies giving couples choice on the various services offered.

Many local authorities have invested in staff and training to facilitate these ceremonies offering excellent value

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, with the provision for the local authority in cases of hardship to reduce fees

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law does not prevent couples getting married as a statutory wedding is available at low cost in all districts.

The proposals would give greater choice in the location of marriage.

However they may not lead to an increase in marriages other than potentially for those who live or work abroad if the residential qualification is reduced

and the two-tier notice procedure introduced or humanists who have delayed getting married as they wish to have a legal ceremony performed by a member of the humanist society.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) Statutory weddings GRO set fee of £46.00 are available in all registration districts. Requests have been made to GRO for an increase in this fee to reflect current cost recovery to arrange and deliver.

In addition, weddings in de-commissioned rooms within the register office premises are very reasonably priced giving couples options for additional content and number of guests.

2) Fees for registrars to attend venues are reasonably priced in this district. They offer couples the opportunity, to enhance and personalize their ceremony, to reduce costs associated with guests travelling to multiple locations, potential non-requirement for wedding cars, to take advantage of hotel special seasonal offers and prioritize how they wish to spend their budget

3) These costs are usually set by the church and therefore couples choice to use that church

4 ) The only additional cost is for a statutory marriage, the couple would then choose what they spent on a non-legal ceremony

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) There is no guarantee of any extra availability or that there would be any savings at register office

2) Saving on fee for a statutory marriage and if licensed venues pass on any costs associated with their license fee. However presumably there would be costs incurred for risk assessment/ additional insurance costs / public liability cover/ and officiants fees.

3) This would be a minimal saving of £46.00 for the statutory wedding and this option is mainly used when a venue cannot be licensed under current regulations.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1) This may not reflect in any savings to the couple as a 5-year approval is £2000 in this district equating to £400 a year which venues may not pass on depending on the number of ceremonies they hold

2) This district has invested in a dedicated ceremony team and additional casual staff to ensure availability wherever possible. Therefore availability is already maximized

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This may not reflect in any savings to the couple as a 5-year approval is £2000 in this district equating to £400 a year which venues may not pass on depending on the number of ceremonies they hold

This district has invested in a dedicated ceremony team and additional casual staff to ensure availability wherever possible. Therefore availability is already maximized.

More venues may consider weddings some who could accommodate small weddings that would think it easier not having to have the approved status if they are just asked to do a few weddings a year

Community facilities, village halls, restaurants and small business may feel that they could hold weddings if the fee to be pre-approved and have less restrictions was not a requirement.

This can be accommodated by venues now who are not licensed providing the couple have a statutory wedding first

There is no evidence to show that these proposals will increase the number of weddings just the ability for couples to have more choice in location.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Looking at the proposals and fees structure it may have a financial impact on local Authorities if they are not allowed to compete for the ceremonies outside of the register office area and are unable to offer enhanced ceremonies in decommissioned rooms. This could lead to staff reductions in those authorities that have invested into staffing to facilitate a high demand for ceremonies.

The ceremony team receives regular compliments from couples who have appreciated that they could talk and email with the same staff about their big day. They comment that the team have been supportive all the way from initial enquiries to the big day and delighted when they receive congratulation emails following the wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The ceremony team receives regular compliments from couples who have appreciated that they could talk and email with the same staff about their big day. They comment that the team have been supportive all the way from initial enquiries to the big day and delighted when they receive congratulation emails following the wedding.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would make the process much easier for those who live or work abroad to organise a legal wedding in England and Wales without the need for in person visits at least 5 weeks prior to the wedding to form a residential qualification and give notice. If they then can start the process from abroad and are only required to be here a few days before the wedding it will mean time and financial savings on multiple visits

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If notices can be given in any district whilst benefits to the couples this could be an issue for some local authorities planning resources.

We have couples who travelled from China, USA, New Zealand and Australia and were unable to have legal ceremonies as they were unable to fulfil the preliminaries due to lack of holidays or the financial costs of multiple visits

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No known impact

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Local authorities who have invested in staff for ceremonies may find it necessary to review staffing levels within the service particularly if independent celebrants and non-religious celebrants can perform a legal ceremony.

Businesses like hotels may face more competition for the wedding market if ceremonies can be held anywhere this could be a major blow to the hospitality industry who have suffered so much as a result of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions.

Small business may attract weddings such as caterers who could deliver food to all locations. If family gardens are large enough or a field with marquee hired then pop up services could attend i.e. prosecco cart, ice cream cart mobile fish and chip van or hog roasts.

Religious organisations may not be affected as if religion is an important factor it will remain so  
The registration service will be affected by the proposals to enable more people to become Officiants. It is therefore vital to create a fair system in which Registration Services can compete. can compete.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD26-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 10:28:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Family Justice Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

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Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

We do not have a strong view about this. However, 3-7 days seems relatively short. 14 days may be more appropriate.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes as long as appropriate safeguards can be put in place to address concerns about sham and/or forced marriages or capacity.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We do not have a strong view about this but agree with the general thrust of the consultation proposals that the requirements should be as uniform as possible

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

We do not have a strong view about this however the requirements relating to a civil wedding performed by a civil registrar should match the requirements of a religious wedding as closely as possible in order to further the consultation's key recommendation, i.e. to simplify and homogenise the legal requirements for any wedding.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

We do not have a strong view about this however the requirements relating to a civil wedding performed by a civil registrar should match the requirements of a religious wedding as closely as possible in order to further the consultation's key recommendation, i.e. to simplify and homogenise the legal requirements for any wedding.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

We do not have a strong view about this however the requirements relating to a civil wedding performed by a civil registrar should match the requirements of a religious wedding as closely as possible in order to further the consultation's key recommendation, i.e. to simplify and homogenise the legal requirements for any wedding.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

We do not have a strong view as to whether a list is necessary.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

We believe that any group that promotes a purposes that is unlawful should undoubtedly be excluded. Questions of public policy and morality are more complicated and subjective so it is more difficult to justify an automatic ban in these circumstances.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Any such person would still be subject to regulatory control once nominated.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

We cannot think of any specific examples that should be excluded.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

We do not see the need for any limits as to where a wedding can take place.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above we do not see the need to set any limits on where a wedding takes place. If for example a church wishes to allow civil wedding and this is where a couple wish to marry the law should permit this. It is a matter for the particular organisation to determine what type of wedding it will permit in its venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

We do not have a strong view about this

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Given that consent is such a central element of a valid marriage, as a matter of principle, its absence should have a fundamental effect, i.e. to render the marriage void. The reason why consent which is vitiated by duress, mistake or incapacity should have only a provisional consequence – to make the marriage voidable rather than void – is not discussed in the Consultation Paper. This appears to be incompatible with the importance of consent in the proposed new scheme.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. We agree with the proposal in part (1) of the question but not that in part (2). It is not explained why one party's active non-consent should be treated differently from consent which is vitiated by duress, mistake or incapacity. Both absences of consent should have the same effect. Our view, as expressed in response to question 57, is that they should both render the marriage void. The Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 s.12(c) does not draw a distinction between absence of consent by reason of vitiation or for any other reason; it simply applies where "either party did not validly consent" (resulting in all cases in a voidable marriage). We are also concerned that a victim of forced marriage who failed to express consent to the marriage could find their wedding classified as a non-qualifying ceremony, which would deprive them of the ability to seek financial remedies. We can see a basis for saying that a ceremony should be non-qualifying if BOTH parties fail to express consent, i.e. both make it clear that they do not regard themselves as getting legally married, but not where only one of the parties does so.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

We are unable to comment on this topic

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

If the primary purpose of changing the law is to make weddings officiant-based rather than venue-based there seems to be no logical reason to restrict the type of vessel a wedding can take place on as long as the authorised officiant conducting the wedding accepts that it is suitable and respects the solemnity of marriage.

### Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We are unable to comment on this question

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As soon as reasonably practicable can be a fluid concept. It may be better to extend the time limit from the normal period instead.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

We think it should be the separate fee

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

We suggest that on compassionate grounds there should be no fee.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Please see our answer to question 86.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Given the absence of a specific question on religious-only marriages, we take the opportunity to raise this issue here in response to question 85 (whether the current law discourages couples from getting [legally] married), and question 86 (the impact of the current law on couples including the necessity and costs of having a separate, legally recognised wedding).

We consider the discussion of religious-only marriage in the Consultation Paper to be inadequate as, after acknowledging the evidence and submissions on the use of nikah marriages deliberately to evade the legal responsibilities and consequences of marriage, the discussion ultimately sidesteps this problem and artificially defines it as beyond the scope of the Weddings project. We do not agree. In our view the acknowledged and well-documented concern about inequality and abuse of power in religious-only marriages is a key issue which the Weddings project was intended and ought to address. Neither do we consider the call for cohabitation law reform to be an adequate response.

While the Independent Review of Sharia Law made specific recommendations with regard to Muslim nikah marriages, we suggest that the proposal made by the Independent Review to impose obligations on celebrants to ensure that the marriages they celebrate are legally recognised is easily adaptable to the scheme proposed in the Consultation Paper, and should apply generally (rather than singling out any particular type of marriage or ceremony). It would still be possible, as proposed elsewhere, for both parties to express active non-consent to entering a legally-binding marriage. This would therefore create an opt-out rather than an opt-in scheme for legal marriage, which would be more protective of vulnerable parties, and would indeed reflect the Law Commission's reform proposals in relation to the law on cohabitation.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

We do not have the evidence base to answer this question.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We do not have the evidence base to answer this question.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We do not have the evidence base to answer this question.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We do not have the evidence base to answer this question.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

We do not have the evidence base to answer this question.



Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 11:10:21

## About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

[REDACTED]

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the proposal that weddings should be able to take place in the territorial sea, and in bays and other coastal waters, adjacent to England and Wales, onboard ships registered in the UK with a port of choice in England or Wales, because this contributes to achieving the objective of allowing for greater choice and respecting couples' wishes and beliefs with respect to the location for their wedding.

HOWEVER, if the proposals were to preclude such weddings from being officiated by a maritime officiant and limited only to registered officiants, nominated officiants, independent officiants (if permitted) etc., this would also not be consistent with the objective of allowing greater choice to couples. Experience indicates that couples desiring to be married onboard ships normally desire they wedding to be performed by the ship's Captain, but under the proposals this would not be permitted until the ship was in international waters. This is an arbitrary restriction on the timing of the wedding at sea.

The distinction between waters and when a maritime officiant can and cannot legally officiate a wedding also raises operational and documentation/administrative (practical) issues. During a voyage, ships will often pass through different types of waters, and therefore if in only specific waters a wedding would be permitted, it could be expected that there may arise a need to provide evidence of the time and location of the ship when the wedding took place when it is subsequently registered. Whilst this is possible, it is an additional administrative and planning burden on the couple, the maritime officiant (or other officiant if in territorial waters) and the ship that does not seem justified or necessary. Additionally, the distinction between waters removes an important element of flexibility that is often required around the planning of weddings at sea. This becomes even important considering the maritime officiant is anticipated to be the Captain or an officer who will have routine and emergency duties that may affect the scheduling the timing of the wedding once onboard.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the proposal that weddings should be able to take place in international waters under the law of England and Wales, onboard ships registered in the UK with a port of choice in England or Wales, as this is clearly consistent with the objective of allowing for greater choice and respecting couples' wishes and beliefs with respect to the location for their wedding.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We do not foresee, based on existing experience with cruise ship itinerary development and guest booking practices, for there to be any obstacle to the proposal to require couples to give the name and registration number of the ship (presumed to be the IMO No. unique to the ship) on which they intend to marry as a part of giving notice.

We support recognition in the proposals that it is impractical to require couples to name the crew member who will officiate at their wedding up to 12 months in advance because that person may not eventually be assigned to the ship at the time of the cruise.

We support recognition in the proposals that the ship may change after the couple has given notice and that therefore there should be no negative consequences if a couple marry on a ship other than that named in the schedule, provided the ship meets the criteria. This reflects the pragmatism and understanding provided elsewhere in the proposals.

#### Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support the introduction of the “maritime officiant” in the proposals, as this reflects the main demand that weddings at sea can be conducted by the ship’s Captain (or other senior officer).

HOWEVER, we would suggest consideration is given to replacing “deck officers” with “Masters and officers” (within the meaning of how these are defined in chapter I of the STCW Convention). This would have the effect providing more flexibility and comprehensively covering all marine personnel that hold certificates issued (or recognized) by the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency that demonstrate they are qualified to perform operational and management level functions onboard the ship (i.e. identifying them as part of the chain of command, have access to communication equipment etc.).

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We consider it is logical that maritime officiants should be subject to the same rules being proposed as applicable to independent officiants because they share some similar characteristics.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We consider that restricting the officiants for weddings on ships in international waters to only maritime officiants and independent officiants who are part of the ship’s crew would significantly reduce the possibility to cater for religious or non-religious belief weddings in international waters and thus would not be consistent with the objective of allowing for greater choice and respecting couples’ wishes and beliefs. Therefore, we consider the possibility of permitting the following officiants in international waters: maritime officiant, independent officiant (crew), independent officiant (guest), nominated officiant (crew), and nominated officiant (guest).

We understand the ‘link to the ship’ justification behind the independent officiant being part of the ship’s crew, but a link between the officiant and location/venue is not applied for weddings on land (e.g. there is no requirement for a link between a nominated or independent officiant and the stately home or pub beer garden chosen for the wedding). More importantly (see also response to Question 73), it would be hard for cruise ships to cater for many religious and non-religious beliefs if the possibility of the officiant being amongst the passengers is not permitted. Whilst it might be advised that could be dealt with by opting for the officiant being the maritime officiant and then having a guest of the relevant religious or non-religious belief lead the wedding ceremony, this is not ideal and might not be entirely acceptable to the couple.

We have provided a “matrix” to the Law Commission to illustrate the different combinations of waters and officiants that should be permitted, as far as possible, under the proposals. Those that are currently precluded but ideally should be permitted, are indicated in green shading.

#### Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We consider that there will be demand for religious or non-religious belief weddings onboard cruise ships in international waters and that it is important to provide for this possibility to be consistent with the objective of allowing for greater choice and respecting couples’ wishes and beliefs. The current proposals currently appear to only permit religious or non-religious belief weddings to take place onboard ships while in the territorial sea, and in bays and other coastal waters, adjacent to England and Wales.

We understand the ‘link to the ship justification’ behind the independent officiant (or potentially a nominated officiant) being part of the ship’s crew, but it would be hard for cruise ships to cater for many religious and non-religious beliefs if the possibility of the officiant being amongst the passengers is not permitted. Whilst it might be advised that could be dealt with by opting for the officiant being the maritime officiant and then having a guest of the relevant religious or non-religious belief lead the wedding ceremony, this is not ideal and might not be entirely acceptable to the couple.

To satisfactorily provide for religious and non-religious belief weddings on ships in international waters, we would suggest that the proposals should be amended to permit the following types of officiants in addition to maritime officiants and independent officiant (who are part of the crew): independent officiant (guest), nominated officiant (crew), and nominated officiant (guest). Please see the “matrix” provided to the Law Commission too.

#### Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We support recognition in the proposals that there should be an exemption from the fixed time of one week to return the schedule after the wedding for that who held their wedding onboard a ship.

HOWEVER, some form of fixed time limit (such as one month) may still be preferable to such an undefined term as “as soon as reasonably possible” to provide some certainty to the regime. We would suggest something along the lines of: “as soon as reasonably possible, but within thirty days”.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2R-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 12:48:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THERE SHOULD BE MORE FREEDOM OVER DECISIONS TO MARRY.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THERE SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBILITY AND FREEDOM OVER DECISIONS TO MARRY.

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

I FEEL THAT THREE DAYS IS ADEQUATE

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I AGREE

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I AGREE

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD21-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 12:52:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Please select one...

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

When I married there was a choice of church or registrar wedding. As a spiritualist and pagan, I would have preferred to be married in a woodland but this was not possible. The current places where you can be legally married are very limited and do not meet the needs of a diverse culture and differing beliefs. Therefore people are compromised and having to result in having two ceremonies (registrar and then other officiant)

As a celebrant, I am also aware of many couples that would like to get married in the grounds of hotels but as they are not "registered" and so this is also not possible, even by a registrar.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have only performed 1 wedding blessing during this time to enable a dying mother see her daughter in her wedding dress.

It was performed with just 6 people present and in the couples back garden.

A very touching ceremony but they are not legally married.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

The number of days is irrelevant. The important part would be to check at the in-person interview that they are willingly committing to the wedding.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

in-person interview should be first choice and only offered as remote interview if for example a person is terminally ill and there is a medical reason why it would not be possible for them to attend in person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure that standards are maintained, all independent officiants, should achieve a minimum qualification of level 3 as currently offered by some training organisation such as Civil Ceremonies Ltd as well as be registered .

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes for the legal element of the marriage. The officiant should be allowed freedom to make the ceremony personal whilst complying with the legal requirements of the wedding.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The cost of CPD should not be prohibitive and CPD should be made easily accessible ie online as well as face to face sessions.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A civil ceremony should reflect the couples beliefs. If one partner is for example of Catholic belief but the other is not and they are not permitted to get married in church, then there should be no reason why a prayer or hymn could not be included to reflect individual beliefs.

A civil ceremony should not exclude the inclusion of personal faith.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be no limitations to any particular location. The officiant will consider whether they feel that they can fulfill the legal requirements within the location and will provide suitable guidance to the couple.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Dont create another "rule" book which will put in place barriers for personal expression. The advise must leave options open for couples create a personal ceremony in a legal location of their choice.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a fastrack option for terminally ill people.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees



Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

People should not be penalised or incur additional costs just because they are terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An admin fee to cover the time involved and not a professional registration fee.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law is limiting to couples who are looking for a personal ceremony away from a religious ceremony.

There is currently a very limited alternative, generally in hotels whose costs can be prohibitive.

The facilitation for a officiant to be able to carry out a legally binding ceremony in location of the couples choice and at a time of day of their choice is advantageous.

An officiant should not be limited to a belief or humanist status but offered to suitable qualified officiants.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As has been proven during the recent COVID pandemic, the registrar service cannot cope with the pressure of delivering the full registration and officiating.

Couples are penalised for wanting their ceremony on a weekend. They are currently limited to the opening times of the office and could not for example get married in the evening or at sunrise.

The approved premises is so restrictive. I regularly work at a Hotel that has amazing grounds but the ceremonies cannot be carried out in the grounds as they are not registered. The registration process should not rest with the premise but with the officiant.

The current process is too complicated and couples do not understand what they need to do or can do.

Please allow the couples to have the option to ensure they can; legally marry; by a registered officiant of their choice; in a suitable location of their choice; at a time of day of their choice.

An officiant should be allowed to charge whatever they feel appropriate to cover their services and it is up to the couple to decide whether they accept them. It should be a competitive market.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2F-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 14:13:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A minimum of 20 members would allow any bunch of extremeists the right to conduct marriages - this would need for more consideration than these requirements

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree that any organisation promoting unlawful activities must be excluded from undertaking any quasi-governmental activity including officiating at weddings.

Those wishing to go against public policy should be similarly prevented from officiating. Actions contrary to public policy would need to be set out, and reviewed regularly, to ensure that they continued to accord with public expectations.

With regard to public morality, I'm not sure how this has legal validity separately from public policy or the law? If something is morally unacceptable (e.g. polygamy or child marriage) then it would already be unlawful, surely?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This feels potentially unsafe to me. Not all organisations are sufficiently thorough in their preparation of ministers etc for me to feel comfortable about office holders being automatically able to officiate rather than named individuals

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential for those who hold no religious (or set of communal) beliefs to have an officiant of their own choice for their marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this may be a conflict of interest as, should the independent celebrant be nominated by another organisation (directly to a client couple) but charging their own fee, the couple may not believe themselves able to obtain an alternative celebrant.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is very difficult to monitor so may end up being a white elephant. For example, several hours a month spent reading poetry is CPD but would be hard to quantify

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

A building is a building is a building. If doesn't matter where a ceremony takes place but what is done and said. There are many religiously dedicated buildings that are used as community buildings and where lots of non-religious events happen so it seems a false division to prevent people getting married in a venue where they may have met, been part of a group there, and where they may even be having their reception.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe, definitely, and large enough to accomodate the couple, officiant and witnesses, bur who is to decide if somewhere is diginified? Would that mean that untidy kitchens would be prohibited or perhaps a shop owned by the couple? These are comparative judgements

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to safe

See above for diginified

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Probably the local registrar should be responsible. The process should be a paper exercise that requires signing off properly once approved by an officiant for a ceremony or if already known to the register office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to add information but why occupations of parents?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That rather depends on the nature of the notice and the length of time applied to it since many terminally ill people may not be able to wait or, even if they are still alive, may not be able to properly articulate their consent even though they were fully and freely consenting at the time the notice was given

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if detained in a prison should this be charged, otherwise it is a tax on the sick

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The availability of independent officiants to celebrate marriages would expand the availability of marriage to couples who don't wish to have either a religious marriage or a purely secular one as prescribed by civil ceremonies at present. Increasing the venue availability to enable couples to marry anywhere that is safe for them to do so would reduce the cost of getting married and the practical issues where members of their families may be unable to attend in some existing venues. Also the increased personalisation of ceremonies would make marriage a far more attractive proposition for many couples

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDYF-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 15:44:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am happy for my responses to be shared.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage recognised by the UK law celebrated in a religious ceremony.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

There has been a lot of uncertainty from the off-set regarding couples planning their wedding - will their wedding go ahead, will it be as planned, what are the restrictions, how many guests can go ahead, etc.

There has been anxiety as their wedding date nears as - will there be an announcement to the evening before to say ceremonies can't go ahead, will one of them (or their guests) test positive or show symptoms and have to self-isolate, will they be better off postponing or bringing the wedding forward, etc. It's put couple in a challenging position having to choose who to invite as guest numbers have been low and how should they celebrate post ceremony.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple is not resident in a registration district for 7 days they would very unlikely have proof of residence - do they live in the UK? What address would be on the notice? They could simply put any address down.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this way someone wishing to marry would then be aware of what documents they need to bring, or obtain, which documents are acceptable and what validity is required from them. This would save time for both the person wishing to marry and for the registrar rather than them turning up unprepared for their appointment and having to rearrange having brought the incorrect documents.

A lot of processes are now done online including applying for a passport, driving license and bank account which is some of the documents used as proof of identity and residence.

However I think the notice period should commence once the face to face interview has took place.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I think the separate in-person interview would need to be set at a 'sooner rather than later' date to avoid documents having expired or if anything was incorrect and further evidence/identity required.

3 days may be too small a time frame based on availability of the registrar appointments. weekends, bank holidays, etc.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think registrars should meet every couple wishing to marry. If not, who determines if that person is entering the marriage of their own free will, who is checking documents match up, who decides if they have the mental capacity to marry??

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is far too much personal information given on a notice for them to be put online for all to see - from a data protection point of view and online fraud prevention.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is beneficial to the parties wishing to marry should they need to postpone for a number of reasons - pandemics, illness, financial reasons, etc. It will also save time for both the party and the registration service having to re take a notice if it has expired. The couple also have the option to bring their ceremony forwards needs be.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should there be a reason to identify the officiant in the future their name should be recorded. Due to illness or other the name should be amended if needed.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony should still be able to go ahead if there is a problem with the officiant therefore a substitute should be available. There is no mention of who an 'officiant' is? Is it a registrar or just anyone wanting to do a wedding?

Please share your views below:

A substitute still needs to be a suitable person (it not just another wedding guest). Someone who understands the legal impacts on marriage, the health and safety of all involved, etc.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should this no longer be allowed? If the banns have been read and they are free to lawfully marry why should they not be able to marry in England?

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The banns should be displayed in the church where the wedding will take place as well as the church that is their usual place of worship (which is often the same church).

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree they should. Exactly the same as a registrar meeting the couple prior to the ceremony for their notice appointment and providing the evidence. All couples should be treated equally if marrying in a civil or religious venue.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree that both of the couple should attend just like they should both attend for a notice of marriage appointment. Everyone should be treated equally.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

It would be a good idea if they both have the same preliminaries - same regulations, standard and fairness regardless of where you choose to marry.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be decided who an 'officiant' is. Is it a registrar or can anyone off the street officiate? That person needs to understand the legal duty that they hold and the consequences of any mistakes made.

### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would think if a couple wanted a religious ceremony they would want a religious figure officiating - eg the vicar

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although for safety it would be best for 2 to attend even though only 1 would be officiating.

### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People shouldn't just be 'nominated'. They should be trained in wedding law and understand the legal complications and benefits of marriage. And be aware of the health and safety off all involved.

### Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be an official list of organisations that are legally able and trained to safely officiate at weddings. Organisations should include local government (registrars), humanist, etc.

### Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure where the number 20 has come from. Why 20? There will be some organisations that meet the above criteria but with only 19 members.

### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree.

### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:



I think all organisations should be treated equally.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If they are doing this role as an 'occupation' why should they not charge the relevant fee that they think is suitable for their service.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be guidelines on what can be charged and to what extent.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation may be poorly run, have inadequate standards or knowledge, and unknowingly let things 'slip'. The GRO should be making ad hoc observations and audits on officiants.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding should be adapted to meet the parties needs and wishes but it should still be very clear that they are entering into a marriage and of their own free will. This should be in line with the GRO standards not what is agreed by an officiant.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that some aspects should be allowed in a civil ceremony such as a bible reading, prayer, etc but that as a whole the service remains civil.

Please share your views below:

as above

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A lot of couples would like a small part of religion on their wedding day so this is a good way for them to implement that.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think it is needed that public access should be allowed - If there is an objection there should be ample time prior to the wedding day for people to come forward

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some locations will not be suitable or safe to conduct a ceremony.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

I agree couples should be able to marry outdoors. A lot like the out door settings due to personal tastes and interests, it would sometimes allow larger wedding guest numbers, be more suitable for certain wedding guests (those with children or pets) and of course, in case of another pandemic. It would be unsafe on inland waters, air or private homes from a health and safety point of view and in case of forced marriage, or if one of the couple makes a last minute decision to change their mind on the marriage.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be made fair for everyone. Why should one couple be allowed to marry in a location but not another.

### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be fair. If religious ceremonies are allowed in civil venues then civil ceremonies should be allowed in religious venues. However this could blur the lines on what is a civil ceremony and what is religious and who is accountable for the marriage legalities.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location should meet guidelines set by GRO.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The above listed information should be added prior to the wedding ceremony not afterwards. The information should be accurate and correct at the time of the ceremony and therefore signed by the couple to say it is correct.

Amendments should not be added at a later date unless making a formal correction - with fee, evidence and witness.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think we would lose some of the 'tradition' if nothing is hand written or signed so no. A lot of couples use this time as a photo opportunity and to feel like they are forming a contract.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with all of above.

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the officiant's duty to ensure that the schedule is accurate and correct and amendments are made and initialled by relevant party at the time of the signing.

The marriage ceremony should not go ahead without at least 2 witnesses.

The schedule should be signed by the couple, witnesses and officiant.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the above.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that they shouldn't have to co-habit after it's celebration - this could be due to working arrangements, travel or military commitments.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a legally binding contract that makes it clear to themselves, and others, that they are married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

People who are terminal ill, in prison, hospital or housebound are still able to get married as the registrars come to them for a notice appointment and for the marriage ceremony.

### Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Although the parties intending to marry will be under a great deal of stress, have limited time, and possibly limited mobility or energy to give notice of marriage I think they should just like we would interview any other couple. This is to ensure they understand what is happening and about to take place and do they wish to do so.

### Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No this should not be abolished - registration officers do not have the knowledge or experience to determine which weddings would be acceptable under a Registrar General Licence.

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule should be valid for 12 months for ALL couple regardless of their circumstances.

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule should be valid for 12 months for ALL couple regardless of their circumstances.

### Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever is decided should be the same for ALL couples.

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is no evidence that that person is seriously ill how would you know it was true?

### Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would put parties at risk if they decided last minute to marry or not.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To be married under UK law it should take place in the UK.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should not be marrying in international waters.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't see a demand.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

At the moment there is no fee for this travel (or additional time). It is unfair for the general public to have to make time in their own lives, sorting childcare or taking annual leave, and have to pay for the expense of travel to attend the appointment.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

(2) There should be no such fee. This couple would not of been put in this situation of their own free will or wishes, their time is limited and finances are stretched. We should waiver any fee in such circumstances on compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should have the option to marry in a register office should they wish - for tradition, for ease and for cost reasons.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. No, if people genuinely want to get married they comply in whatever way they need to, even if some of their wishes are not met.
2. I agree more people would therefore be legally married but if anyone can officiate, anywhere and anyhow, the significance of the legal aspect of the marriage would be lost. And therefore many would maybe be lead to believe it would be as easy to get divorced.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. There is plenty of availability at register offices as they have the facility and resources to do several weddings in one day. Costs are also extremely low for a basic ceremony.
2. The cost of an approved premise is still very good value for money in line with the prices that the venues charge for the rest of the wedding day.
4. unsure of these costs.
5. People would rather pay the price to know that they have the legal paperwork for their marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I don't think bringing in these changes will bring costs down. Couples can get married at a registration office for around £200 (including notice fees) so I don't see how it can get much cheaper.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDU9-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 16:49:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

These are personal responses as a celebrant and owner of [REDACTED] business [REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The initial halt to weddings during the pandemic caused great difficulties for couples and in my experience they were forced to postpone. Once weddings were permitted again the restrictions meant that couples had to change their plans or move their dates again. This caused further distress especially for those who were marrying while a family member was able to attend but may not be alive at a later date.

The disruption put stress on couples for a number of reasons and some decided to postpone once again to 2021 or 2022. Other couples didn't commit to a date for their wedding because of the uncertainty.

For suppliers, including myself this meant a loss of income both immediate, in relation to work already done but where a final invoice hadn't been presented. It also meant that due to the uncertainty new bookings were not coming in so no income from deposits.

There has been a massive disruption to the wedding industry meaning less tax being paid and some businesses going out of business.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the current mass communication world this requirement doesn't seem to serve any purpose

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like a sensible solution to an outmoded system

#### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Although in person interviews held a short time before a marriage seems sensible in terms of location of couple and interviewer if there are concerns about either party marrying of their own free will or whether any impediment exists a 7 day period leaves some time for further investigation without having to cancel the marriage if enquiries can't be completed.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Perhaps initial interviews could be carried out remotely however care would need to be taken to ensure that someone else in the room wasn't influencing the interviewee.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should still be possible

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be more effective than the current local notices

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This means that it is easier for both couples and authorities to spread out when couples are giving notice and allows for if the original marriage date has to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes it clear to the couple and the registration service who is responsible for registering the marriage.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such unforeseen events do happen and it would be unfair to the couple if they were unable to marry due to such circumstances. There would need to be a set procedure to be followed in these circumstances.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The Banns are specifically an Anglican church tradition and perhaps the civil framework of giving notice should be sufficient and if the Anglican church wish to have an additional requirement that should be a requirement for them.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I believe this should be the same as civil notice and given online and in churches at the discretion of the Anglican church itself

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be a requirement

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be a requirement

Consultation Question 18:

All weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This would be more fitting in a secular society and the Anglican church shouldn't be treated any differently from any other organisation in relation to marriage preliminaries.

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a requirement for all weddings regardless of the officiant

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be authorised or licensed by the registration service to officiate at legal weddings whether they take place in a religious setting or are purely civil.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems to be unnecessary to have more than one registration officer at a civil wedding

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that appropriate registration/licensing to officiate should be granted following appropriate training for all officiants including clerks in Holy Orders. Which bodies are responsible for licensing officiants to officiate should be a better for the registration service to authorise.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree in principle but if there isn't an existing governing body then the registration service could license officiants to officiate

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This excludes officiants who can reflect the belief system of the couple being married rather than their own belief system and restricts the choice for couples to have a ceremony that reflects their own belief system or if they have no belief system.

Please share your views below:

As stated above the current secular society is not made up only of people who profess belief systems some people have no belief system per se but they may wish to have a ceremony that reflects varied secular beliefs. the belief in marriage as a binding commitment can be held without a formal belief system

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This excludes people as outlined above and the registration service could have authority to nominate officiants or authorise a professional body representing officiants of no fixed religious belief system. This could be in addition to organisations described above but not excluded by this description.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes these should be excluded if they promote unlawful purposes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

It would be preferable to have nominated named individuals following appropriate training to ensure a good standard of officiants.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This way couples could ensure that the person they asked to officiate was appropriately authorised to do so.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will be an important element of any new regulations. It will provide more choice for couples who will be able to choose a bespoke ceremony tailored to their needs without having to register their marriage at another time and place.

Independent Celebrants, with relevant training on the legal elements to make a declaration and register a marriage and a NOCN Level 3 Diploma, who become officiants will ensure that the General Register Office can be confident that ceremonies will be conducted in a professional and dignified manner, recognising the solemnity of marriage but allowing couples to tailor the ceremony to their individual personalities.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Standards must be maintained to ensure that marriage remains a respected institution that is taken seriously by those undertaking it.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As mentioned previously agreed standards should be maintained

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would be important to allow officiants to make a living from officiating however there could be a code of conduct which must be adhered to to ensure that the state of being married is not diminished by being commercialised.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be difficult to limit fees because however fees would probably be self-limiting as couples will determine what they are prepared to pay and officiants wouldn't price themselves out of the market.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be possible for officiants to put aside their own beliefs to provide a suitable ceremony for non-religious/non-belief couples reflecting their life view however it could cause confusion if officiants nominated by religious and non-religious belief organisations are also permitted to act as independent officiants.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this is a very important element to ensure that marriage is taken seriously by couples.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be general guidance from The General Register Office but this shouldn't be too restrictive. Providing the legal requirements are carried out and the dignity and solemnity of marriage, mentioned above, is maintained some freedom should be given to couples to choose what form their ceremony should take.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree however the registration service should be given a role in any appeal process

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this should only be done following consultation with the nominating organisation

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

each organisation should have a process for investigating complaints or breaches of standards and the General Register Office should be part of any appeals process from complainant or officiant if required and should have authority to make a decision overriding the organisations decision following such investigation

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proviso outlined in question 41 below

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

CPD is very important to maintain standards and should be part of the authorisation

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the above recommendations appear to cover the appropriate methods of ensuring consent to be married and the lack of any impediment to this marriage

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The standards required of officiants should be sufficient to ensure that the ceremony chosen takes the marriage seriously and includes consent to be married with the legal implications that entails.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be predominantly left to the religious organisations to determine the form of their ceremonies providing they abide by the legal requirements set out previously.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Content should be limited to ensure the ceremony is identifiably civil and so does not use wording specific and exclusive to a particular religious rite of marriage

Please share your views below:

Examples should include religious music and readings but excluding wording exclusive to particular religious rite to avoid confusion with such a religious services.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this should only be repealed if the religious service will now be authorised under the new legislation

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be negated by new forms of giving notice

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will enable couples to have more choice about the location of their ceremony and also remove bureaucracy from the registration service in licensing venues.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In this case it will be extremely important to ensure consent is given freely and no impediments exist so the system for doing so should be very robust

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any requirement of this

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would avoid confusion and potential misrepresentation of what sort of wedding was taking place.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants could be given training and guidance on how to determine the appropriateness of a location for the wedding

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Both these elements are high priority

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As suggested in response to Q 51

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this shouldn't be necessary and providing the approval was a straightforward and uncomplicated process would ensure that the location owners maintained the appropriate standards without requiring organised inspections.

Please share your views below:

If pre-approval is deemed necessary then the registration service should take responsibility for pre-approval which can applied for. however I don't believe this will be necessary if the officiants have been trained appropriately and the process for approving a location is kept simple.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would retain the current requirements

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is important for Welsh speaking couples however as the national language of the UK is English I believe that registration should be in English and the option for Welsh to be used in addition rather than as an alternative.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the system is secure

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

1-3 are appropriate reasons to void a marriage however same sex marriages should be recognised by the Registration Services.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In relation to 2 and 3 there should perhaps be mitigating circumstances recorded to explain why these conditions couldn't be adhered to.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the exception of the 1bii for the reasons outlined above

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree however for none cohabitation if this doesn't take place there should be some explanation or mitigation recorded

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be open ended as the person who did not consent may be prevented from speaking out within this time frame but should still be entitled to have the right to petition for the marriage to be nullified if no consent was given after this period.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will ensure only authorised officiants officiate and protect couples

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There is a potential problem in relation to the ability of a terminally ill person to give notice and then to give consent.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an option for the registration officer to visit the terminally ill person at their home, hospital or hospice or prison for this purpose and the notice period should be flexible however I do believe it's important to ensure that they freely consent to the marriage.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Proper training should be provided specifically for this purpose to ensure there is a clear understanding of free will consent.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm sure this has been very carefully considered and this provides equal rights to people in this situation, however perhaps 6 months would be more appropriate with an option to extend the period up to a further 6 months if the couple have been unable to marry within the initial period for reasons linked to the illness.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provides equal rights to people in this situation

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would give couples a choice whether to postpone their wedding or go ahead remotely.  
Care needs to be taken in preliminaries and ceremony that are undertaken remotely that there is no coercion to marry.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would provide greater choice than currently exists to couples.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

This would allow for greater choice however it would be important that the officiant was satisfied that the ceremony could be carried out safely and with dignity.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

the name of the officiant should be required to ensure that the officiant is legally accountable for any breaches in the law. this should be no different than on land.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

This may be the case however providing the same criteria apply to such land based weddings this should be allowed.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This may be necessary if the couple are travelling within the period normally permitted to return the schedule.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This figure should be based on average costs of such actions

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps this fee could be waived or nominal

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This offers choice for couples

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is fair and allows cost recovery for the registration service without necessitating a venue to pay a high fee which is then passed on to couples.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This will depend on what the additional services are and so I don't feel able to make an informed comment on this. If there has been considerable work in preparing to provide these services this should be charged for in addition to the registration officer's hourly rate as a registration officer.

#### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

There is potential for hardship for couples in these cases and in order to avoid any form of means testing all couples should be treated the same and there should be no fee

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The cost of weddings can be prohibitive to some couples and so discourages them from marrying if they aren't happy to have a 2 x 2 marriage or find it difficult to organise a 2 x 2 option because of restrictive practices employed by some local authorities. I believe the proposals put forward by the Law Commission will allow greater freedom to couples to choose cheaper options which will encourage them to engage in a legal marriage.

Many couples would like to marry outdoors or in an unlicensed premises and so your proposals to allow ceremonies to take place anywhere will encourage more couples undertake a legal marriage.

Many couples do not want a formulaic ceremony but something that is more meaningful to them and the proposals to be more flexible around who can officiate and the wording within ceremonies will encourage more couples to undertake a legal marriage. This will also benefit couples who wish to marry using wording aligned with spiritual, other faiths or nonreligious beliefs .

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Inevitably costs of having a separate legally recognised wedding along with costs of marrying in locations not authorised is an unjustified expense, especially when couples are trying to keep the cost low by using unauthorised locations.

Often 2 x 2 weddings are limited in availability by some local authorities.

The requirement of a superintendent registrar and registrar at a legal wedding leads to increases costs and availability and also appears to be unnecessary. This is also the case for some religious marriages where a registrar is also required to attend.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This has the potential to benefit couples financially and it will also allow them much greater choice of a location including private locations with no additional cost.

The requirement of only one authorised officiant will also benefit couples financially especially if based on cost recovery fees.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The proposals provide greater choice for couples and will also allow more couples to marry at a time and place of their choosing more easily. With more officiants to choose from there will be more availability.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Venues won't be limited to set times for weddings as they generally are when Registry office staff are involved. they will be able to use any part of their building or grounds rather than a designated space, giving couples more choice.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't believe the registrars office will loose money because Independent and Humanist celebrants become officiants, in fact I think they will earn more from officiant registration. They may also be involved in regulation or training for officiants which will provide a new income stream.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please see above

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law appears to be complicated and bureaucratic for couples to follow.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The new proposals will make it easier for couples in these situations and in the case of 2 above should increase the number of couples making this choice. As a consequence more couples marrying in England and Wales will boost the wedding economy which in turn will increase tax revenue.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/a

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

For couples I feel this will increase competition which in a free market economy will provide more choice for couples and the proposals will make it cheaper for couples but also give greater value for money and provide an opportunity for them to spend more money if they wish which still provides value for money.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2Q-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 17:11:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Coalition for Marriage

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The proposed duty does not go far enough. Officiants should uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage not only in their conduct but also in the content of the ceremony itself. If our society is to esteem and respect the institution of marriage, then the officiant, as the legal representative, in a marriage ceremony should likewise ensure the union is esteemed.

Marriage is of profound importance to society, so it is vitally important that the seriousness of such a commitment is upheld in the public eye. Since officiants of weddings fulfil a public role, their responsibilities should include upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage in terms of their own behaviour, conduct and choice of words.

Since there is a danger that the solemnity of marriage can be trivialised or downplayed in the ceremony, officiants should also have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony. Officiants represent the serious legal responsibility marriage entails, and while couples should be free to shape the event themselves, the weight of the commitment and the seriousness of the promises made should remain uncompromised.

The Law Commission's proposals must define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. Other parts of this consultation seem to consider weddings taking place "in the air" as being compatible with this, which suggests either these standards are too low, or the boundaries so flexible they become redundant.

We suggest that 'dignity' and 'solemnity' be defined such that they encompass respect for marriage in the public eye and a recognition of the sincerity of the vows performed. It should be said that 'dignity' and 'solemnity' do not mean dour or cheerless, as weddings should be joyful occasions, but still sincere and serious.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a significant danger in removing the 'prescribed words', which play a central role in the marriage ceremony. Simply signing a statement of consent is open to abuse, as one of the parties to the marriage could legally give their 'consent' even if they were absent from the ceremony. This risks undermining the sincerity and authenticity of the promises and commitments made in the marriage service. The prescribed words are important in a number of ways, and, given the seriousness of entering a marriage, it is not much to ask for couples to repeat short, specific phrases that signify they freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are making.

It should not be possible for a marriage to take place without both parties being physically present at the service; simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. Marriages are a public commitment, and so the vows, which are emblematic of this, should also be public, as is currently the case. The public declarations have always been considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. This helps protect marriage from being abused, or the centrality of the commitments within marriage downplayed.

The prescribed words in a marriage ceremony are minimal and so already very flexible. There is already plenty of scope for couples to tailor them to the



dynamics of their relationship or shared beliefs. The words of the ceremony can be varied and unique yet the core aspect remains unchangeable. Fundamentally, the view that marriages should be entirely customisable stems from a misunderstanding about marriage; a wedding is never just about the couple. The union they enter is legally defined and recognised by societies across the globe, so society has a vested interest in keeping these declarations public. Marriage cannot be divorced from the law or wider society, and can never be an entirely private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment. It is widely respected and well-regarded by societies around the world. Marriages are binding and not trivial events. Weddings, then, should reflect this solemnity. The format of a ceremony should not be allowed just because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant life event.

Making the officiant the arbiter of what should be considered appropriate for a marriage risks setting a low bar, based on subjective tastes. One officiant may consider a Marvel comics-themed wedding crass, whereas another may find it unobjectionable. Unofficial weddings in the UK have included such a theme, along with Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones and James Bond. One couple had a "Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns". It is doubtful that these ceremonies reflected how seriously marriage should be taken. Officiants should have the duty to make sure that marriage ceremonies show respect for the institution of marriage and should not be comparable to a form of entertainment or party.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public institution. The legal parameters around marriage set it apart in society, and rightly so. So, it is important that marriages remain in the public eye. The 'open doors' requirement helps convey this public nature of marriage. It indicates to the couple that their marriage has implications on the role they play in the rest of society, and indicates to the public that marriages are not just an aspect of someone's personal life but have an important bearing on public life. Closing marriages from the public would reinforce the idea that marriages are private matters, and that society has no duty to uphold it or respect it.

The 'open door' aspect of marriage was put in place centuries ago and serves as a protection against forced marriages. Forced marriages are still a problem in our society, and must be safeguarded against. Closing the public from marriages removes this protection, and may give room for vulnerable people to be abused.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are important in the eyes of the couple concerned, their families and friends, the wider public and the law. Therefore weddings should only be legally permitted to take place in locations that reflect this significance and the dignity of marriage itself.

There are some locations which should be authorised to host marriage ceremonies, such as churches or other religious groups who do not own their own premises. This would be a welcome extension of the regulations, which still reflect the seriousness with which marriage should be regarded.

However, the extension to other premises should not be indiscriminate. Careful boundaries should be established to safeguard the dignity of the wedding. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in a range of inappropriate venues that undermine the dignity of marriage, such as S&M dungeons, Comic Book conventions with the couple dressed in character, even underwater. Such places mock the seriousness of marriage, putting it on par with a performance or party. There must be reasonable limits to what is permissible. Places that are incompatible with the dignity and solemnity of marriage and that fail to reflect the significance of public vows must be excluded.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Question 52 of this consultation gives the criteria that wedding locations be “safe” and “dignified”. The law should limit wedding venues to places that fit this description. “In the air”, as this question proposes, does not seem to meet these requirements, and shows that the bar being proposed is far too low. Weddings are public occasions, and so, as previously mentioned in this consultation, should be accessible to the public in this way. A wedding “in the air” or “on inland waters” would be inaccessible to the public and therefore undermine the significance that marriage has for wider society. Locations like these would effectively circumvent the open doors requirement, which we believe it is important to retain (see response to question 47).

The chosen location should be easily justifiable by the couple, the officiant and the eyes of the general public. The most extreme suggestions, such as in the air or underwater, should be ruled out, as should places that trump the traditional with the trivial, such as a McDonald’s restaurant. The most important part of a wedding is the promises the couple make to each other in the eyes of the law and the public, and no wedding venue or format should undermine or distract from the gravity of this.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The choice of wedding venue should not be a free-for-all, so reasonable parameters should be established. “Safe” and “dignified” seem to be apt terms that carry an awareness of the dignity and solemnity of the promises made, and the need for these ceremonies to be accessible to the public.

However, it is important that these terms are robustly defined, and not so flexible as to undermine themselves. Earlier in this consultation, weddings taking place “in the air” were considered, which would appear to most to flout the terms “safe” and “dignified”. Clear, stringent safeguards must be put in place.

“Safe” seems a necessary proviso to ensure the health and safety of the individuals involved, but “dignified” should act to ensure the high regard for marriage is maintained. If a proposed venue could be argued to debase or trivialise marriage in the public eye, then it should not be considered “dignified”.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office must produce clear guidance on this point. In order to properly assess whether a location meets the criteria, though, the terms must be adequately defined. Stringent safeguards must be proposed, and there must be clear consequences for officiants if the guidance is not followed.

As previously stated, clear definitions of “safe” and “dignified” will be essential. Guidance on the viability of a venue should consider not just the safety and security of the parties involved, but the security and reputation of marriage in the eyes of the public. Since marriage is a public commitment, it follows that a venue should be deemed suitable in the eyes of the general public. Prudent questions to ask would include whether a proposed venue would reflect the solemnity of the marriage or distract from the importance of the commitment. Marriage is not a novelty, and neither should the venue be a

novelty. Marriage should not be entered whimsically, and neither should the venue indicate a whimsical event.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUD-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-18 18:24:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not mind the information I provide being shared.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

From a work perspective, as Managing Director of [REDACTED], I, and my staff, have spoken with many couples who have had dreadful experiences during Covid.

Mostly the conversations with couples are those who had planned weddings and could not get in touch with their register office or the register office could not accommodate them when they wanted. So they switched to having a commitment ceremony that we could provide at the time when this was possible after the first lockdown. Couples were very upset, I spoke to many in tears, who felt they had been left in limbo by the registration service.

Also, the government Covid guidelines and regulations did not match up and the whole sector suffered from confusion. Guidelines seemed clear only for religious marriages and registrar led marriages, humanists and independent celebrants were left fighting for clarity for months. Then some guidelines were put out for humanists and not for independent celebrants! It has therefore been a very difficult time for all and it could have been handled much better if government had been aware of the large number of couples who had weddings planned to be led by independent celebrants.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree. The main reason is that this will make the process easier for couples living outside England or Wales.

Couples wanting to marry here currently have the expense of staying here for a week beforehand, so they may well be discouraged from marrying here at all. Additional costs are clearly in terms of paying for accommodation, but also having to take additional time off work when they are probably already planning a honeymoon. This law does seem a nonsense that serves no particular purpose.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree. This makes huge sense in today's online world!

It will be less expensive as less face to face contact is required. At the moment couples need to attend an appointment at a time when the register office is open and in their own district, which may mean taking time off work. I think that the current process is unnecessarily time consuming and restrictive, and would be much better dealt with initially online.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem to be a sufficient time and would make it much easier for couples living abroad to get married here. It ties in with removing the 7 day residency requirement and would be welcomed by couples.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In my opinion this would be a very sensible power to include. If, at some point in the future, it became impossible to carry out interviews face to face, then the power to hold these remotely would be very helpful.

If a sham or forced marriage were suspected then the option for a face to face interview would be an appropriate and necessary option.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I would continue these exceptions at the present time as it is not proposed that interviews are conducted remotely yet. It would undoubtedly make it more difficult for couples in this situation if these exceptions are removed.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current system is not very effective. Few people go to look at notices in a register office. As long as notices online do not contain very personal information such as home addresses, then this would be a far better and more sensible way of dealing with this in my view.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ye, this is a sensible time frame in my view.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes absolutely the officiant should be named for many reasons, not least being that it will be a check that couples can make sure that the officiant is authorised.

2. At the parties' request, the registration service should certainly issue an amended schedule with a substitute officiant.

In instances where a couple changes their officiant, there definitely has to be a system in place that is not cumbersome or slow, that allows the schedule to be reissued with the name of a replacement officiant quickly.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this must be allowable as such incidents will happen. The new officiant would have to be an authorised officiant and I can see no issues with this.

Please share your views below:

Il think yes, there could well be be instances where a substitute officiant might need to step in, other than the reasons of illness, death or unavoidable delay.

These could include family emergency, such as sudden illness of a family member, death of a family member, or a sudden domestic situation, where an officiant cannot leave her children alone, in a case of loss of childcare.

In practice, most of the people who would, in the future, work as authorised officiants are likely to be currently conducting marriages. Therefore they will have networks of others, in their sector and in their geographic area, that they can immediately contact to step in if required, just as they do now. In the future of course such other persons would also need to be authorised celebrants.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would appear to be a sensible move.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this seems unnecessary and should be repealed.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

In the spirit of making the process easier for all couples, I feel this is very limiting and would prefer to see a wider approach so that banns could be published elsewhere.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. As they have no way of verifying the documents this would just add to administration and I feel it is unnecessary.
2. There is no requirement for this to happen now, so to introduce this seems against the spirit of simplifying the law and I do not think it necessary.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Concerns about predatory marriages, particularly in the case of dementia patients etc. do exist. However clergy do meet with couples and I would hope that any such issues would most often come to light at this time. I think this is a matter for the churches to decide.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

In order to make the process easier and more understood by all couples then one set of universal preliminaries is a much preferred option.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most definitely. I believe strongly that any legal marriage must be conducted by an officiant who is aware of their legal responsibilities and duties, clearly defined by training and the guidance provided by the Registrar General's Office.

Officiants do need to ensure that the parties freely express consent to marry and make sure the legal requirements are met in terms of signing the schedule or marriage document. As long as officiants are trained in, and fully aware of, their role and responsibilities, this would be an altogether more straightforward and appropriate system than the current arrangements.

#### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would not be appropriate for registrars to officiate at anything other than a civil marriage.

However, I do believe thought should be given to the inevitable question that will arise when registrars wish to also act as independent celebrants. Should this be permitted or not?

From my experience of training celebrants, many of who have been ex-registrars (and in some case existing registrars), I know that there are many part time registrars who have left registration positions to set up as independent celebrants. Usually they are forced to leave the registration service due to a conflict of interest. Some have used their previous role as a registrar in their marketing to influence couples to use them. This could be viewed as inappropriate as it could influence couples.

Therefore I would urge consideration of two questions. The first being whether registrars will be permitted to also operate as independent celebrants and if so, in what geographic area (possibly outside their local authority area?).

The second question is to what extent can they publicise that they are (or were) also a practicing registrar.

There does have to be a national position on this, if local authorities are allowed to decide this for themselves then a piecemeal and unfair position will exist for registration officers.

My personal views on this are based on the privileged position that registrars hold, communicating with couples who are seeking to marry. It is possible that a registrar, who was also an independent celebrant, could influence a couple away from the registration service and take their ceremony themselves.

In order to protect the local authority and avoid any such issues arising, I believe it preferable not to allow registrars to be independent celebrants while employed as a registrar. However if they have left the service they should be allowed to become an officiant as an independent celebrant.

It could be said that registrars marketing their services as an ex - registrar gives some competitive advantage but I feel that this is diminished if they are not actually practicing. In reality, couples will choose the celebrant that suits them best. So I do not feel it practical to introduce regulation on how ex registrars market themselves as independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. It is totally unnecessary for two registrars to attend, independent celebrants lead ceremonies on their own all the time and it is not problematic to do so. It is unfair to charge couples fees covering two registration officers. This will also provide a cost saving for local authorities.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the Church of England and the Church in Wales have appropriate frameworks in place to ensure that persons holding office that are nominated to conduct legal marriages are people who are appropriate to do so.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. For religious organisations other than the Church of England or the Church in Wales. The appropriate governing authority should be able to nominate appropriate officiants to conduct legal marriages for that organisation.

2. Non-religious belief organisations to officiate at weddings.

The appropriate non-belief organisation should be able to nominate appropriate officiants to conduct legal marriages for that organisation.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This question raises a concern around defining a non-religious belief organisation.

If the definition and criteria are too loose then, as is the case in Scotland, a plethora of new spurious 'non belief' organisations will very quickly spring up claiming the right to conduct legal marriage. If defined too tightly then no new genuine organisations will be permitted to evolve over time.

It is my belief that at the present time, the definition suggested is as appropriate as any could be and should be adopted.

Please share your views below:

A list is not, in my view, likely to be sufficient to deter inappropriate organisations, as there will always then be exceptions as well as organisations that had not been previously considered.

Better to concentrate on the criteria for who CAN be considered a genuine non-religious belief organisation.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. I do believe there should be a 'least' number of members involved in the criteria but 20 would seem to fall far short of a number that reflects a genuine organisation of a reasonable size, especially as this could be across the whole country.

Someone could potentially rustle up 20 members of just their own family or circle claiming to be members. I would prefer to see a minimum number more like 100.

2. Yes I think an organisation would need to demonstrate at the very least a sincere belief about marriage and I don't this should be optional. However, appropriate wording for a marriage ceremony that supports their beliefs SHOULD be optional in my view. The main point here is that there are distinct and clear views about marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes I totally agree with this. Anything that brings, or could potentially bring, marriage ceremonies into disrepute should be excluded. This would also need to apply to independent celebrants whose training should include awareness of measures that would be taken if they promoted purposes that were



unlawful or contrary to public morality.

#### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think on balance that yes they should be allowed to do this.

In particular with large religious organisations like the Church of England, the administration involved with constantly changing officiants, if they have to be nominated by name, would be onerous. Also, if nominated by office, then officiants leaving would be automatically deregistered so there would be no risk of them practicing once they have left.

#### Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it would be appropriate in my view for the General Register Office to be the responsible organisation in this respect.

#### Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes definitely. There are so many reasons why independent celebrants should be allowed to conduct legal marriage:

1. First and most important is that it provides couples with the choice that they want - to decide who conducts their ceremony.
2. Celebrants will be able to create meaningful ceremonies for couples that include elements that are personal to them, including elements from different cultures and faiths.
3. Celebrants are a growing economic sector and to allow them to conduct legal marriage will grow the sector still further, including attracting couples from overseas.
4. This would bring England and Wales in line with so many other countries where independent celebrants have been successfully conducting legal marriages for years.

#### Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes these organisations should effectively 'vet' the people they nominate in this way.

#### Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Age 18 is appropriate for this role.
2. Independent celebrants will undergo mandatory training which will ensure that they know and understand the legal requirements.
3. Understanding of the legal requirements and continuing professional development including updates on the legal aspects of being an officiant, with the content to be determined by the Registrar General is crucial. Important in this element is understanding the duty that needs to exist to uphold the dignity of the event.

I have been training wedding celebrants for almost 20 years offering Level 3 Diploma national qualifications, and the training needed for independent celebrants will fall into two categories. Firstly that provided by the Registrar General's Office, which will cover all legal aspects and roles and responsibilities, awareness of offences etc. This absolutely must be compulsory, as must CPD.

I would also hope that new people wanting to become authorised officiants would want to undergo training from the established training providers including ourselves. This will provide training in the core skills such as delivery, ceremony construction etc, and we would hope to explain the process of how to become an authorised officiant. Such training cannot and should not be mandatory, but encouraged.

#### Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I completely agree that officiants from religious and non-religious belief organisations should not make a business from conducting weddings. The whole point of being an officiant of their organisation is that their religious or non-religious belief is paramount. They should not be viewed as profit making. However, I would like to ask how this would be monitored.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. It is right to put in place restrictions regarding conflict of interest and independent celebrants should be able to establish a business and run it as they see fit. Market forces will prevail, as in other sectors, and couples will be able to select a celebrant whose fees are within their budget.

Market segmentation could likely become more pronounced and we are already seeing that some celebrants are marketing themselves to niche areas, for differently styles of weddings. This can only be good in offering more choices to couples.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The area of conducting legal wedding ceremonies across categories is interesting. The point here is clarity for couples and the preferred option would be that officiants are either in a category of 'independent celebrants' or nominated by their non-religious belief organisation and there should be no cross over.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes absolutely and this will be difficult to define as dignity and solemnity are subjective terms.

There will need to be a clear message on this within any training of independent celebrants and to the nominating bodies for religious or non-religious belief organisations.

This an important issue and examples could be provided in the following areas, for example, so that authorised officiants are fully aware of the meaning of dignity and solemnity:

Appropriate language  
Ceremony clothing worn to be appropriate  
Ceremony actions and content to be appropriate

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this responsibility must be centrally held and it would be appropriate for the Registrar General's Office to issue all guidance and updates needed.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes the initial responsibility should lie with the nominating body. They should be able to demonstrate that they have appropriate frameworks in place for this.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree. It would be of course hoped that any body who nominates officiants will have the framework to monitor and control them. However, if this is not the case and the body does not act, the Registrar General's Office would need to act.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree totally, monitoring of independent celebrants will be important and should be straightforward.

Elsewhere I have suggested that a robust and speedy complaint system is established from the start, enabling any issues to be swiftly dealt with.

I would add that the fee charged and the actual process of becoming an authorised officiant should be significant enough to deter those who could be less serious in their intentions. I totally agree that the Registrar General's Office should be able to de-authorise officiants.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that there should be no time limit on the authorisation of celebrants. Creating a time limit would seem to have no real purpose.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree. CPD will be important for independent celebrant.

However I would suggest that as the Registrar General's Office will have officiant's details, a system could easily be put in place for them to issue any updates on procedures and legal issues that may arise speedily and effectively using email. Therefore celebrants should be able to keep up to date constantly.

Most independent celebrants do belong to member organisations and membership already includes CPD.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. a. I totally agree. Consent should be expressed in whatever way is most appropriate and there should be no reference to impediments and all the negativity that the term conveys.

1 b. I agree that the concept of 'impediments' needs to be removed as it is inappropriate and out of date for today's couples.

2. I agree the detailing of 'consent' can be effectively achieved by religious and the non-religious belief organisations.

3. I think the signing of the schedule will be a very important moment as it is an action, rather than words spoken and couples might see this as the moment they are married, even if consent has already been expressed. Yes it should contain a declaration that they consent.

4. Yes I agree that expressing consent should be the actual point of marriage. What better point could there possibly be?

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Couples really do need the choice to have the ceremony content that they want. Officiants can provide ideas and make the ceremony work for them. but to be unrestricted in content would make a wedding so much more attractive to couples.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. This needs to be applied fairly and across all religious.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I do agree that some degree of religious content should be allowed in civil wedding ceremonies. The current law on this is a nonsense with variations on what is permitted across different register offices!

Please share your views below:

Terminology will be important here. For example, if 'an act of worship' is not permitted at a civil ceremony, then this seems reasonable - until you start to try and define an act of worship! Does that include a prayer or a hymn?

In a funeral ceremony the line drawn is very often that the act of a religious committal, where the person is commended to God, should be conducted by a religious minister. There is no such defining line with weddings and it is clearly impossible to make a list of what is or isn't acceptable. Therefore I feel that as little restriction as possible should be made, with couples allowed to include whatever religious content they feel appropriate.

They have chosen not to have their ceremony led by a religious officiant so there is unlikely to be excessive religious content.

I also believe that independent celebrants should state whether they are happy to include religious elements in the ceremonies they conduct, at present most do, but some do not. As long as this made clear in their marketing materials, couples will pick a celebrant who will include religious content if some is required. This is what happens now.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement is no longer required in my view.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The need for open doors is no required today and this requirements should be removed in my view.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should definitely be able to take place anywhere. As long as all requirements are met to ensure the marriage is legal, then why deny couples to opportunity to get married wherever they want? The current system of approved venues involves unnecessary costs, restrictions and prohibits many venues from being able to host wedding ceremonies. Many couples want to get married outside and the current restrictions (including quite frankly ludicrous 'gazebo work-arounds') are outdated and should be removed.

However the location must be appropriate and dignified for a wedding and there will need to be some guidance for nominated officiants about what constitutes an appropriate location and what doesn't.

Please share your views below:

None of these places should be limited as long as the proposals accepted elsewhere in this paper are accepted so that safeguards are established regarding the appropriateness of locations and officiants are fully trained in assessing locations.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is extremely outdated that locations need public access. Couples should be able to have a private ceremony for their marriage.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The points raised in the paper on this are interesting and give thought for much thought about potential outcomes.

1. However on balance I do think that civil weddings should be prohibited from taking place in religious or non-religious belief organisation venues. We know that not everyone attending a wedding takes in every word that is said. Without restrictions if an attendee was in a religious building at a non-religious ceremony then the person could be confused about the nature of the ceremony and therefore misled and confused. Prohibiting ceremonies as suggested is therefore a necessary approach in my view. I think clarity and simplicity are paramount.

2. I agree these should be prohibited for the same reason given in 1. above.

3. I agree these should be prohibited for the same reason given in 1. above.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants are able to actually visit venues to assess suitability and they will receive training, guidance and CPD on carry out this part of their role.

There is no one who will be better placed to make a professional assessment of a location. Officiants will WANT to ensure that the location is appropriate and will advise couples accordingly.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Absolutely I agree. Officiants should carry out risk assessments in terms of health and safety and make a full assessment of a proposed wedding location considering all factors. Most trained celebrants will have already been trained in health and safety issues. In the Level 3 national qualification we already deliver, we devote an entire section of the course to health and safety. (If sight of this is of interest at a later stage, I am very happy to supply a copy).

2. I agree. The location should be 'dignified.' This is a more subjective judgement as what is dignified to one person, may not be seen as such to another. However, professional celebrants have a good general understanding of the term and they have the reputation of their business to protect. They will not want to hold ceremonies in undignified locations and they are by far the best people to assess this.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Officiants will need consistent advice that covers all possible locations and points that need checking at a location. The General Register Office already advises local registrars on the assessment of venues under current arrangements and we are willing to supply other examples of locations that have been proposed for weddings in the past, if required for training purposes.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree it makes a lot of sense to have such a process as so many venues are well established as suitable wedding locations. It will save much unnecessary and additional assessment work.

Please share your views below:

1. Local Authority Registration Services are best placed to create and maintain such a listing. They already have approved venues assessments in place.

2. The current list of venues approved for marriages could be used to create an online listing. Other venues could be added when an officiant has approved a new location, so the location does not need to be checked for every wedding that takes place there.

However, I do not think inclusion on such a list should be indefinite. Ownership, management and other factors change over time. A time limit, such as 3 years, should be put in place so that after that period, before the next wedding is held at the venue, the officiant carries out a new assessment.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. I agree. After the wedding there should be the opportunity to add the date of the wedding.
2. I agree. After the wedding there should be the opportunity to add the location of the wedding.
3. I agree. The choice of terms to use is appropriate, it means people can have more choice in terminology.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To be able to register in either language is appropriate.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this may be needed in the future and would make a great deal of sense. However if the appropriate infrastructure is not yet available then it should only be introduced when it is.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree. These proposals are very sensible.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree. The couple is at the very centre of this. If mistakes are made that are not the fault of the couple then they should not be penalised.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree with this proposal to determine when marriages are non-qualifying. These factors do involve the knowledge and actions of the couple themselves.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this proposal on the validity of a marriage as there is clear intent on the part of the couple to be married.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be clarity in this area and this presumption has no place in an updated system. If it was retained then it could only lead to yet more confusion for couples.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no sensible reason to keep this.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Absolutely. I totally agree with this.

Officiants must have credibility and be relied upon to act correctly in all respects. They need to know that it would be an offence to do otherwise and, whatever type of officiant they are, before they are authorised, they should sign a document to say they understand the repercussions of any actions which could mislead couples.

2. I agree. Reasons as given in 1. above.

I would like to question here the 'policing' of nominated officiants, in all categories. In practice, how will they be monitored for actions such as misleading couples? I suggest that an extremely robust complaints procedure will be needed that is very easily accessible to couples. If an officiant acts inappropriately and is reported through a complaint, then a very quick response, possibly with temporary suspension of the officiant pending investigations could be required, dependent on the severity of the complaint.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of any particular problems but the more that can be done to assist couples wanting a wedding in the case of a terminal illness, and the less this costs them, the better.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Due to the possibility of undue influence on the terminally ill party, I think it is a good to have this safeguard in place.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I totally agree. This would appear to be a more straightforward system. It will be easily understood by couples.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this period is appropriate in my view.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem to be appropriate in terms of fairness, in my view.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are very sensible suggestions and, with lessons learned from Covid, if there can be provisions put in place then this can only be beneficial in the future.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, emergencies can be of any length and type and all should be covered by these provisions.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provision rightly extends the provision

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will give couples more choice and is a sensible proposal.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree,. There is no reason why this should not be permitted and it will give couples more choices.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

If the laws governing wedding venues are to be freer, then any sort of ship found in international waters would be appropriate for a marriage. This could potentially include a canal boat or barge, paddle steamer, private yacht or other vessel, as long as all other requirements are in place. Cruise ships however will probably remain the most popular choice.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a case for both categories.

1. Deck officers may be on board ships a great deal of the time and will be required to do this many times, they will build up expertise as a result.
2. I would also like to see any independent celebrants, as long as they are authorised, able to conduct legal marriages on a ship. This will be a popular choice for couples.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. they must be subject to the same rules as independent celebrants.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible and appropriate.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

The same availability should apply to marriages in international waters as to those taking place on land in England and Wales. So they could be religious, non-religious belief weddings or led by an authorised independent celebrant.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



This is sensible as their journey may require extra time before they can physically return the schedule.

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I certainly agree that a fee could be charged. It is however most important that the fee is set nationally on a cost recovery basis, and it never becomes an opportunity to receive additional income from those who are housebound or detained.

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

On compassionate grounds, surely people in this situation could be charged a lower, nationally set fee. This is a special case and in my view should be treated as such.

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Couples need this option and clarity that such ceremonies are in fact available.

Based on current experience, I don't think local authorities will want to do this and may make it very difficult for couples in terms of booking such ceremonies, as happens now.

Evidence shows that currently, even though the provision of 2 x 2 ceremonies is required by law, register offices are not in fact enabling this in a fair and satisfactory manner. (Reference research by Stephanie Pywell

<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/practice-points/availability-of-two-plus-two-marriage-ceremonies/5103708.article>)

Clearly local authorities do not want to offer such ceremonies as they receive less income from them, so the question becomes how the provision of such ceremonies can be assured.

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes these types of fees do need to be set on a cost recovery basis, in my opinion, in order to avoid the type of postcode lottery that venues and couples currently experience with regard to fees, which varies hugely across local authorities.

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes a pre-approval process would be undoubtedly helpful and save a lot of time-wasting with multiple assessments of the same locations. However, in my view, a national fee should be set to avoid potential disparity in fees from one local authority area to another.

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this seems sensible as costs will be incurred in terms of time and mileage. Therefore they should be recovered in my view, but only on a cost recovery basis.

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I do strongly believe that a cost recovery basis should be applied to discretionary services that a local authority might choose to offer. If such services are not offered on this basis then there could be a huge discrepancy in fees charged from one area to another.

#### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if someone is detailed or housebound then standard fees could be applied.

#### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

On compassionate grounds I believe that if one of the couple is terminally ill, then no charge should be made for the registrar.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. officiants should expect there to be a fee for processing applications. I would like to know whether the fee would apply when the application is submitted or when the authorisation is granted. If an applicant is refused then will the applicant then pay a full fee to apply again or could they re-apply using the same fee already paid?

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes I believe the current law does discourage couples from marrying. for the following reasons:

Location is a real issue. The current restrictions on venues mean that couples cannot marry in places that may be personal to them, such as their parent's home. They have to pay often extortionate fees to hire an approved venue, or go to a tiny room in a register office for a statutory 2 x 2 wedding (which is very restricted in guest numbers etc.). Costs for approved venues have become far too high for couples under current law so many won't in fact marry because of this.

The administration for a civil marriage is cumbersome and long winded and it is very hard to even get appointments let alone the required date and time if a civil marriage is requested under the current system.

Costs can be prohibitive. If couples want a celebrant - led ceremony then they also have the cost and problems associated with having to hold two events, probably on different days. (Which day becomes their anniversary?) Our experience and couples' feedback tells us couples really hate this system and want just one event in one place.

Couples want more choice in the content of their ceremony. They often want elements of two differing cultures to be included, , recognising their backgrounds. They may want family members to lead part of the ceremony, or they may want the ceremony to go on for hours! Under the current restrictive laws their choice is terribly restricted.

The question of who can conduct a legal marriage is restricted under current law. Couples cannot have a celebrant or a person from a non-religious belief organisation to conduct their legal marriage. To restrict their choice in this way means they are less likely to marry at all as it is not really what they want.

2. If the current legal restrictions are lifted in line with the proposals in this document then the result will be that the effects listed in 1. above will be reversed and more couples will marry.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The availability and costs of register office weddings:

I am in constant contact with practicing wedding celebrants, so I have numerous examples of cases concerning the availability and cost of register office weddings and how this impacts couples.

Just this week a celebrant asked me for advice about a couple who really want her to conduct their ceremony. When requesting a statutory ceremony from the local registration service, the couple were made to feel that it was 'a very bad thing' that they were doing and the couple did not achieve an appointment at all with the registrar. and don't want to contact them again. There are many other similar examples. Many of the restrictive practices are

documented in Stephanie Pywell's research into 2x2 weddings.

Not only is it difficult to book such a ceremony, it is almost impossible to find any details of them on council websites, They are often not mentioned at all so couples have to fight and be very determined to actually get one of these ceremonies, which of course it is their legal right to have.

Some registration services clearly do not want to conduct statutory '2x2' ceremonies so they provide extremely limited dates, times and locations where this can happen. Additionally, the practice of deregistering marriage rooms and making them approved venues with high fees for their hire, is a practice that I have seen grow right across the country.

2. The costs of marrying on approved premises:

Approved venues currently have to pay a fee to be licensed by a local authority and approved as a venue for legal marriage. They therefore have additional costs to pass on to their customers and they need to host many weddings to make such costs worthwhile. This means only larger and more expensive venues are usually 'approved premises'. This restricts couples' choice as to where they can marry. If couples want to use a non-approved venue, such as a small restaurant, for their ceremony, they will have to have a celebrant led ceremony plus a separate statutory ceremony which will probably be in a register office. This is clearly a poor choice for couples.

3. The costs of marrying in registered places of worship:

This is really a matter for the various religious organisations as the costs incurred will vary enormously. However, I feel that couples with a religious faith are less likely to be deterred from having their ceremony in their place of worship due to cost.

4. The costs of marrying in locations that are not authorised for weddings under the current law.

At the moment couples can hold a ceremony, that is not legal, in non-approved venues and conduct their legal formalities at the register office. In many cases the cost of a non-approved venue plus the extra costs of the register office ceremony can be lower than using an approved venue, which can be very expensive indeed.

5. The necessity and costs of a having a separate, legally recognised wedding.

It is crazy that couples are forced to have a separate 2x2 ceremony in a register office. It can make it costlier for them if there is further to travel etc. and definitely more difficult to arrange and decide who should attend. It is a nonsense.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Register office weddings will still be available if these proposals are accepted and for many couples wanting the statutory only ceremony, this will continue to be their preferred option.

However with the removal of 'approved premises', couples who currently have to pay very high fees to hire deregulated marriage rooms in register offices will see a real cost saving. This is because the council owned marriage rooms will have to compete in the wedding venue market as any other room for hire. The fees charged should therefore drop due to market forces.

In terms of availability, I recall visiting a register office some years ago and stood behind a couple clearly terribly excited about arranging their wedding, obviously very much in love. We waited for the office to open after lunch and I then watched the couple talk to the receptionist who proceeded to totally destroy their dream. They were told in no uncertain terms that they could not just come in and expect to arrange a wedding. It had to be booked months/years in advance, there was limited availability anyway and a complicated admin procedure to go through. I watched them go away totally crestfallen and the memory of seeing that happen has always stayed with me.

2. Freeing up wedding locations in this way will lead undoubtedly to cost savings for couples. I know that many couples will choose a private home for their wedding and we are very aware of the popularity of outdoor venues.

3. In all cases, if there is no longer a need to travel to have a separate legal ceremony or have registrars attend a venue just to conduct the legal formalities (as in the Combined Weddings Scheme in Staffordshire), couples will experience significant cost savings.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. The costs incurred by some venues in becoming licenced for marriages is simply too high. They either go ahead and pass the fees on to couples through their charges, or they don't become licenced at all.

2. We know from our constant contact with celebrants and couples that registration officers are not always available to carry out marriages when couples want. Dates often have to be booked years in advance.

Availability is one reason why couples contact us to arrange a celebrant led ceremony. Another is cost. To marry with two registrars present at a weekend in a approved venue is very expensive!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. This would be great benefit to venues - to all venues, whether currently licensed for marriages or not. They won't have to pay fees to the local authorities and smaller venues would be able to host legal marriages meaning that so many more will offer marriages.

2. Only having one registrar attend a marriage will surely make it possible for registrars to be more available. Therefore the venues will have less issues with registrars not being available to attend marriages.

3. Weddings will be able to go ahead in venues led by a wider range of people, this will make them more attractive venues to couples and will boost their business.

4. Venues will have many more business opportunities arising from these proposals as there would be an increase in the number of weddings required by couples, they will be able to make better use of their grounds and have a more flexible and less restrictive approach to what is permitted.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local Authorities hold a monopoly on marriage under current marriage law and are able to charge high fees and restrict what is offered.

Couples are a 'captive audience' for local authorities as they have to use this option if they do not want a religious wedding but want to be legally married. Decommissioned marriage rooms can be hired at high costs and couples really have to fight sometimes to get a 2 x 2 statutory ceremony to get their legal formalities conducted. It would initially seem therefore that local authorities won't be keen on the proposals in this document.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Registrars are also restricted by the current law and the more forward thinking councils will embrace a less restrictive approach and find they can offer ceremonies that are more flexible, in more locations and they will certainly benefit from the increased number of couples wanting to marry.

They will offer a more efficient service by only needing to send one registrar, they can offer a much wider choice of ceremonies and will be able to charge for administering a pre-approved listing of venues.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The current law undoubtedly drives couples away to other countries to marry. It is sad that this is the case but faced with the current restrictions, it is easy to understand why couples simply go abroad to marry.

2. Couples living abroad face so many restrictions coming here to marry, it is a wonder any of them actually go through the process. Simplifying the process will attract more couples to hold their wedding here.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I believe the proposals will reduce the number of couples travelling to other jurisdictions to get married. It will be less restrictive and more attractive to marry in England and Wales.

2. The proposed scheme will most definitely benefit couples considering travelling to England and Wales to marry. It makes the process easier and more choice is offered, providing much more attractive proposition.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The proposals can only be of benefit to the UK ship register as it will make marrying on board ship more attractive to couples.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Allowing ship owners to market their services to include legal marriage can only increase the number of couples who will want to do this and this will be significant as it will include couples from overseas.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Government and Local authorities

Centrally, the Registrar General's office will incur costs in setting up a system for authorising nominated officiants. However, these costs will be offset by those who apply for authorisation who will have to pay a fee.

Local authorities will save by only sending one registrar to conduct a marriage so this will be more cost effective. They will lose the approved venue fees but will be able to charge for setting up the pre-authorised venues listing.

Frankly, local authority registration services have inflated costs to couples by only offering expensive decommissioned marriage rooms and making an inexpensive statutory ceremony almost impossible to obtain in some areas.

## 2. Businesses

All businesses in the wedding sector will benefit from these proposals as they give greater flexibility of venue and will attract more couples from overseas to marry here.

## 3. Religious (and non religious belief) organisations

It is certainly the case that 'proper' non-religious belief organisations will benefit from these proposals. There should be no significant costs to them I feel.

## 4. Independent officiants

Independent celebrants form a growing and significant sized market sector with the vast majority being self employed with their own small business. Our requests for training to be a celebrant have doubled in the last year. The sector will clearly grow further if these proposals are accepted and celebrants who become authorised officiants will grow their businesses if allowed to conduct legal marriages. There is already a demand from couples for celebrant-led ceremonies and the volume of ceremonies conducted by celebrants will increase, improving the financial situation of hundreds of small businesses in England and Wales.

## 5. Couples

Couples benefit financially more than anyone by these proposals, as they will be able to have the wedding they want with the person they want leading it and for a cost THEY determine. They will save by not having to use approved venues, they can have their ceremony anywhere they wish and the cost saving will be huge for them in that respect alone. They won't have to pay for two registrars to attend the ceremony or effectively have two ceremonies at different locations. They will benefit hugely.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2S-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 08:06:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We married in a Registry Office which while beautifully set in an old historic town in [REDACTED] it did not reflect us as an older couple, marrying after 14 years together, both having been married previously.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We married in the Registry Office to ensure our marriage was recognised.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We would have liked to celebrate our marriage on our allotment with family and friends or on a beach, again with family and friends but did not want to have to travel abroad to do so.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Several weddings I was due to attend were cancelled or postponed due to limitations on numbers.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any reason for the seven days notice, no checks are made and as locals are unlikely to recognise the couples names anyway there seems to be little point in this requirement.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this is a fair and reasonable compromise and that the personal appointment is essential in assuring that there is no coercion in the arrangements.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I believe seven days will give the registrar the opportunity to make enquires and alert the authorities to any wrongdoing.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that remote meetings would give the opportunity to identify sham or forced marriages and that the face to face meeting is essential

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I believe this should continue to be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a sensible alternative and more likely to be viewed by others allowing sham or forced marriages to be more easily identified.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems fair and reasonable

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential

To avoid last minute cancellations where celebrants are ill or stuck in traffic such as a motorway incident where there is no opportunity to avoid the delay.

Please share your views below:

Believe there should be greater flexibility in substitution providing the substitutes person had attended the required training and is certified. For example a local qualified Civil Celebrate where traffic deys or l'll ess prevent the original celebrant from attending.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that banns are outdated and that online publication should be standardised across the United Kingdom whether Anglican Church or other religious service.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible and relevant

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As previously indicated I believe that all banns and notices should be published on line - perhaps on a regional basis.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, the conditions should be the same as for a civil wedding

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, the conditions should be the same for all weddings.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries to standardise the process.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential in ensuring fairness and consistency across all ceremonies and to protect individual from forced weddings.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The process of registration officers is very limiting both in terms of availability and potential religious or sexual orientation bias. A same sex couple should have the opportunity to chose a celebrant who supports their choices for example.

All marriages should require a licensed celebrant not necessarily a registrar.



Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There seems no logical reason for two people to attend a d if a substitute celebrant was permitted this would avoid delays to ceremonies as venues could have their own qualified staff members or a daily member or friend could choose to qualify to carry out individual ceremonies.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe all celebrants should be properly trained and certified/ licensed. Not appointed by way of their related profession to ensure standards are met consistently.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe there should be a single licensing authority which qualified celebrants should register with and couples could choose whom they wished from the list.

Incidentally the same should happen for funerals there should be a registered person present who is suitably qualified to deal with the circumstances of the event - trained to support those present and to prevent illegal or unsafe actions being permitted or carried out.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that any belief system is required and that of all celebrants were qualified and licensed then all of these wordy definitions could be removed and the process simplified.

Please share your views below:

I do not believed this is needed - a simple licensing system with graininess celebrants whatever religion or creed is all that is required.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ido not believe this is required or relevant. Marriages should be carried out by qualified celebrants regardless of the race or creed of either the couple or the celebrant.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe officiants should be nominated and automatically qualified. There should be a licensing and simple basic training structure.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe officiants should be nominated and automatically qualified. There should be a licensing and simple basic training structure.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe officiants should be nominated and automatically qualified. There should be a licensing and simple basic training structure. The public list of all registered celebrants and officiants should be responsible providing this was not at excessive cost to those registering. The simple training course and registration cost should be limited to a nominal fee such as £500 to enable a family member to training g and carry out a meaningful and legal

service. It is a similar cost to registrars attending a venue.

#### Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a licensing and simple basic training structure in place and individuals should not be able to sign up to register without proving they have attended and passed an appropriate training course.

The public list of all registered celebrants and officiants should be responsible providing this was not at excessive cost to those registering. The simple training course and registration cost should be limited to a nominal fee such as £500 to enable a family member to training and carry out a meaningful and legal service. It is a similar cost to registrars attending a venue.

#### Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - There should be a licensing and simple basic training structure in place and individuals should not be able to sign up to register or be nominated without proving they have attended and passed an appropriate training course.

The public list of all registered celebrants and officiants should be responsible providing this was not at excessive cost to those registering. The simple training course and registration cost should be limited to a nominal fee such as £500 to enable a family member to training and carry out a meaningful and legal service. It is a similar cost to registrars attending a venue.

#### Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As identified previously, there should be a formal licensing structure and simple basic training provision in place to prevent individuals registering without proving they have attended and passed an appropriate training course.

The public list of all registered celebrants and officiants should not be at excessive cost to those registering. The simple training course and registration cost should be limited to a nominal fee such as £500 to enable a family member to training and carry out a meaningful and legal service. It is a similar cost to registrars attending a venue.

#### Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should be treated the same requiring a qualification and registration whether nominated or not.

There should be a standard fee for officiating, set by the Registrar General which the individual officiant can choose to waive or reduce should they wish. Plus travel expenses at standard inland revenue rates.

#### Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It seems ridiculous to use the term 'conflict of interest' potentially preventing suitably licensed and qualified close family members from performing ceremonies when Anglican clergy have been performing these marriage ceremonies for their relatives without restriction for hundreds of years.

There should be a standard fee for officiating, set by the Registrar General which the individual officiant can choose to waive or reduce should they wish. Plus travel expenses at standard inland revenue rates.

#### Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should be treated the same requiring a qualification and registration whether nominated or not. The nominated system should be abandoned and all celebrants qualified and licensed through the same route.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should be treated the same requiring a qualification and registration the guidance should be set in legislation and not down to the General Register Office who have a vested interest in restricting the number of officiants.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should be treated the same requiring a qualification and registration the guidance should be set in legislation and not down to the individual religion. The control for withdrawal of authorisation should lie General Register Office.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should be treated the same requiring a qualification and registration the guidance should be set in legislation and not down to the individual religion. The control for withdrawal of authorisation should lie General Register Office.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should be treated the same requiring a qualification and registration the guidance should be set in legislation and not down to the individual religion. The control for withdrawal of authorisation should lie General Register Office.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that religious references should be limited to religious ceremonies other than the playing of music that may be traditionally deemed religious or a simple community prayer such as the Lord's Prayer.

Please share your views below:

Lord's Prayer

Use of music deemed religious such a hymns.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Providing the celebrant had the relevant qualification and registration there should be no restriction on the venue.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the celebrant had the relevant qualification and registration there should be no restriction on the venue.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues should maintain the right to choose who is married there, but if they choose to permit just one non religious ceremony the venture should be open to all as a wedding venue with the individual couples choice of celebrant.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the celebrant had the relevant qualification and registration there should be no restriction on the venue. The question of safe access and venue could easily be included in the training in the same way it is with funeral celebrant training provided by [REDACTED]

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be down to the individual celebrant as things may have changed since the original approval.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registration should be standard and open to investigation using the national language ie not in Welsh only.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would clarify the legal situation

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Providing the celebrant had the relevant qualification and registration there should be no restriction on the venue.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To protect the individual

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To assure consistency

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

12 months corresponds with other legislation

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This relates to other relevant legislation

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be recommended

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, there should be consistency

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would assist where pateniers do not want to be made aware of the full details of their condition,

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should have the relevant qualification and registration. This would otherwise be just another form of nomination.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All officiants / celebrants should have the relevant qualification and registration regardless of the venue.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All officiants / celebrants should have the relevant qualification and registration regardless of the venue.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic methods would permit the return within an agreed timescale

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location should be assessed on an individual basis

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be the standard fee. Death does not discriminate on ability to pay or not

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be set in consultation with all organisations such as Civil Ceremonies, the church etc.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There needs to be greater emphasis on couples understanding that if they are unmarried this affects both inheritance, legal rights for funerals and pension entitlement etc.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs are currently high in relation to the time incurred for example a registry office venue and to outside venues site to the additional time involved. Allowing licences officiants could allow families lower cost alternatives in their own homes to low cost venues.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There are very limited times available for registrar offices and licensed venues making them expensive due to limited availability. Marrying at home or using non licensed venues would allow couples to marry more economically and more probably should they choose to do so.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



There are very limited times available for registrar offices and licensed venues making them expensive due to this limited availability. The facility to Marry at homes and using non licensed venues would allow couples to marry more economically and more probably should they choose to do so.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The cost of licensing and training should be specified by law and not set at such a level that would prevent this legislation being beneficial. A nominal fee structure of £500 for a day training and licensing should be set to encourage family to have meaningful ceremonies by family members or friends who are also professionally trained officiants.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPV-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 09:25:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period of time.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this is important.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2X-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 09:34:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No concerns

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a badly worded "question" which isn't even a question.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We need to protect against forced or spur-of-the moment marriages.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"Religious organisations" could include dubious organisations.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Terms need defining.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some over-arching regulator to ensure officials meet proper standards.

..Ah, just seen next question!

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties should be present, and consent in the presence of the official

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venue should be agreed by the official in advance.

Please share your views below:

Again, must be agreed by the official in accordance with GRO standards.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very important!

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very important!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, very important!

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

An official, on say an annual basis, and subject to re-certification if any significant changes are made affecting the venue.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Important for official to be face to face with parties.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither. Normal fee to be paid (as I think it says in an earlier Q)

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2J-X

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. In person only.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a sacrament first and foremost.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Not necessarily. Public policy is often adverse to morality eg same-sex relationships.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No 'independent' officiants

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No independent officiants

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And religious meaning. Marriage is a sacrament, not a legal contract. The legal process should be referred to as 'partnership' or similar, it is NOT marriage without the presence of God.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Further erosion of morality and religious teachings.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religion is not pick n' mix

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

License certain venues. Not anywhere and everywhere.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must be done in person

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No impact of law. Lack of morality and proper education is the limiting factor and the reason marriage is in decline.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No benefits, only further dumbing down and immorality.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All of the proposals are watering down the importance to society of the stability that marriage has brought to society.

This is seen in the divorce rates and fewer marriages, blended families and hurt children, helped in part by the interference of David Camerons government in changing the very definition of marriage.

If, as it seems, the act of getting married can be with words of any description and meaning and have no legal binding. So why bother with marriage at all?

These proposals are destroying the solemnity and permanence that marriage brings. If there are no legal requirements then what is the point and how are property and other rights etc covered. Presumably by wills or some other protection yet to be invented.

Again why change something that works?

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I refer to my answer to Q4 C4

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPA-K

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Personal response

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Name confidential. Response fine.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married, heterosexual with children and grandchildren

The whole point of marriage is not only to protect each other in law, but also joint offspring.

Other unions should be protected by law if the intention is 'enduring' npbut clearly biologically different from above, where joint offspring are NEVER the result.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the 'intent is serious', proper procedures should be adhered to.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Only resident nationals

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Online abuse...publish in local notices.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No. Subject to abuse of law.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

2... to be sure no coercion

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, and privately.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Legal first and foremost.

Do not need religion to differentiate between heterosexual marriage and same sex legal/Civil agreements.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Heterosexual marriage should be sanctioned as 'marriage'

Same sex unions should be sanctioned equally but as 'Civil partnership'

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Only biological status should be registered...for the sake of any possible adoptions etc.

Law supports the legal definition of a biological mother and father

### Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Special medical e emotion...given separately so no coercion.

### Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Historical tracing/ancestry will be made more difficult.

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not terminally ill if longer than 12 mints.

### Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Prisoners should NOT be married..until release.

### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not 4

Abused

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to abuse unless prior procedures complete.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No religious belief required, simply biological respect/differentiation re joint biological offspring

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within 2 months, or void.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Differentiating marriage where the couple are usually able to reproduce between them and therefore protect offspring, should be differentiated from Civil partnerships where this can never happen.

Marriage does not have to involve religion, any more than Civil Partnerships. The latter should be allowed a religious ceremony if chosen. Additional clauses should be included for adoptions.

Biology (and consequences) determines the difference me, not religious belief.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I repeat:-

1. Ensure no coercion by partners

2 Differentiate marriage/Civil partnership contracts separately by biology not social construct, or religion.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Transgender 'man' legally has to register as 'mother' in English Common law, for the benefit of innocent offspring. (2020).

The latter must take precedence, not social constructs.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

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### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Which needs to be clearly defined and enforced, there is the danger of subjectivity here.

Consultation Question 36:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an important part of the fabric of our society and, as such, is not just about the people getting married. Promises that are made are to each other are also a public pledge to wider society as a key stakeholder in the process.  
The words currently required in this regard are very few and are hardly time consuming or onerous. In addition, there is already the flexibility for further words to be said.  
The nature of marriage is diluted if participants are not present in person.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn undertaking involving vows that need to be taken seriously. Anything that makes it a flippant dilutes that.  
It is a public undertaking in which both state and society have a stake.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement was introduced to mitigate against forced marriage which, regrettably, remains an issue. This will exacerbate the problem and, unfortunately, is likely to be used in certain parts of our society to oppress mainly women. Anyway, there is a public significance to marriage which this will negate.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How will settings inappropriate to the importance of marriage be monitored? Current practice already suggests dignity is being sacrificed for flippancy which dilutes the key role marriage has to play in our society.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But these terms need to be properly, rigorously and clearly defined.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPM-Y

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What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Clergy should have the power to call for documentary evidence and to check such evidence, and they should be required to meet with each of the couple separately before banns are published.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

The couple should DEFINITELY be required to attend and make separate declarations that there is no impediment to their marriage in order for a common licence to be granted to authorise an Anglican wedding.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

They should be excluded

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

They should not be allowed to nominate officiants by office

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think it's the current law which discourages couples from marrying ... it's the cost that they think they have to pay for a reception!!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDP3-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 10:37:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not confidential.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Widowed after some 55 years in a marriage conducted in a Christian church.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience of this.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not adamant about this but I think it is desirable that at least one of the couple should be known in that area. It gives an opportunity for any legal and proper objections to be raised.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A lesser time may not give a proper opportunity for anyone wishing to comment on the proposed ceremony.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I believe that remote interviews would not give sufficient security against sham/forced marriages etc.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In this day and age it is a commonly accessed medium for information.

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously out of date and no longer applicable.  
(N.B. A church would be damaged. A person or animal might be injured.)

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think they should be published there but also in more public areas such as newspapers.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I can see definite advantages in both 1 and 2.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would seem very desirable as a safeguard.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential to ensure fair and legal event.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Approved organisations must be defined to ensure dignity and legality of the ceremony. Political and subversive organisations should be excluded.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Obviously such organisations should not be given the power to nominate.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. It is safer to have individuals nominated in person.

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Someone needs to, and they are the obvious independent body.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They are the independent body with overview of the situation.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to be kept up to date with changes and to ensure standards do not slip through familiarity with the process.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is need for the form and ceremony to be sufficiently dignified to emphasise the real seriousness of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I c an see no good reason for this to be repealed.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors are a safeguard against intimidation and forced weddings and allow for objections to be raised.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Humanity demands that special consideration should be extended in these circumstances.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is too important just to be rubber stamped.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Always providing that a suitably respectable and dignified situation is provided.

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable and fair.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure what impact the current law has, but I do believe that couples should be encouraged to marry in a serious and dignified , not flippant manner.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBE-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 10:38:54

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What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst I do agree with the need to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage idea I feel the proposal is too weak and needs to include further duties of the officiants to ensure the whole process comes under those precepts.

Those precepts of 'dignity' and 'solemnity' also need to be clarified as to their actual, precise meaning as at present this is unclear and suggests that just about anything might qualify.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is ridiculous to suggest people can enter into something as serious as marriage without possibly even being present - it completely removes any sense of the importance of the event and reduces it to the level of say, signing up for a loyalty card scheme!

As the words required are few and can be easily added to if required I think the ceremony is flexible already and doesn't require further 'loosening'

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To say that a marriage ceremony should consist solely of the couples choices again fails to show how important the bond being formed is and invites them to form a offhanded view of marriage as a whole.

Lets not also forget that this is supposed to be a public declaration and that the state does have to be interested in it, as such it should at least be taken seriously.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To do this would, I feel, suggest that the ceremony only has relevance for the the couple involved and has no further importance.

Also, these are meant to be public events, to make them closed to others may remove an important protection from those who could be forced into unwanted marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this proposal seems to wash away the thought that what is being entered into is an important and far reaching life changing event. The venues allowed should clearly show and reflect significance in what is taking place.

Would a wedding in say a fast food joint do this?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again the terms used here are very open and 'wooly' .

These need to be clearly and precisely set out as to what is meant by 'safe' and 'dignified'

Particularly in regard to safety strong and clear safe guards need to be in place.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPQ-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 10:45:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

personal and as [REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

smaller and more intimate weddings often with more meaning than large showy ones

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if this applies to those being married in Church too.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

At least to allow "cooling off period" similar to insurance and other contracts when taken out.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Person to person is much best. Remote interviews should only be allowed for exceptional circumstances.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, very wise.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as an officiant, this would be reassuring to know

Please share your views below:

If the couple do not like the original officiant. ie no major reason is needed.

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The banns are read in a church that extends across all 5 nations and unifies the Christian community as distinct from political divisions.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

NO - too many rural churches do not have regular services to allow banns to be read at the correct intervals. There must be the opportunity for the banns to be read in the benefice and not in the same church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both, helps prevent false weddings and ensure both parties are in agreement.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes definitely

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

To make a couple who wish to be married in church undergo a civil ceremony first is not only harsh and unsympathetic, but also against religious freedoms and tradition.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should allow non conformist churches to use a registrar too

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but only for registered religious organisations

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes, only official organisations that have passed the tolerance and respect tests

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The threshold is too low. An organisation should have at least 1000 members.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Definitely. Including respect for individual rights and safeguarding of women and children.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes if the office is a selected one.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These people are not subject to the selection procedures of any responsible organisation and therefore must be excluded.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No because this is too low. Reputable organisations would require much more.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be set at a standard amount to prevent exploitation.

Consultation Question 34:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants should not be permitted.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is vital if the marriage is to be seen as important, binding and considered. Ceremonies must not become entertainment or trivial.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants working for reputable organisations will already do this.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is an example of state control over religious and other organisations.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Government has a very poor record for keeping lists of people. High costs, massive overspend, total inefficiency. State control at its worst!

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be required to consent orally (at least) and declare no impediment. The marriage is finalised when the certificate is signed.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The form must contain legally binding words as in a court of law.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be allowed to reflect their beliefs within the legally binding words.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be clearly "religious" or "non religious"

Please share your views below:

Any they wish for in a non religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely not! Many couples wish their marriage to be recognised by a post civil service in church.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should only be allowed at suitable registered sites.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All should not be permitted except within a building or structure.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Place is important and must align with the beliefs of the participants.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only registered locations allowed.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

only registered venues allowed

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only registered locations should be allowed. This removes all these complications.

Please share your views below:

Only registered venues allowed.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only allow the nationally recognised language of Great Britain - English

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Government has a very poor reputation for high spending computer projects that fail.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

reduces false marriages.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an area where couples have slipped without thought and needs to be tightened up.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If consent was not given it should be annulled

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These matters need full debate and consideration. Not amendments.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

licenced venues only

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if licenced

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

only recognised officiants on land should be used.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

do not use such people.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It should be at full cost

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current laws do not discourage people from getting married - the costs do! Most costs are self imposed to do with the celebrations.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of the ceremony is not the issue usually - the trappings and celebrations form the major costs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Venue must be licenced and checked for suitability. The costs of this is very low compared with the costs of the celebrations.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The more centralisation and data bases are set up by government the greater the costs!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2H-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 10:46:43

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:



n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Online means they could be living anywhere in the world and using for example a vpn to disguise that fact.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an important step. There should be in-build delays to allow for consideration and a change of mind.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Face to face is preferable. Again, it shouldn't be too easy to get married. Those that are serious about it don't mind the 'hassle'. Those that do should maybe consider how serious they are. Anyone that goes into marriage with the view that its not for life should maybe consider their commitment.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, that is fine.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not without a truly compelling reason, but it shouldn't be impossible.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about this one.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Maybe on-line would be good. Likely to be interested parties that live remote from the church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, that seems like a sensible idea.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Whether you have a faith or not, I think a Christian input is essential. If you don't want it, don't get married in a church!

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure, but probably not.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sorry, not sure here.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It opens the door to cults officiating weddings.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, obviously surely!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Not sure.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse. Should be an independant body ensuring these persons are fit for purpose.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

18 is much too youg - would suggest maybe 30.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely should be reasonable limits on the fees charged. Again, open to abuse if not.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure on this one.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutly - it is a solemn comittment for life and the service should reflect that. If there a definition of 'dignity and solemnity'. For example, where the service takes place. As examples I don't believe a service in a pub or an aeroplane would be dignified and solemn.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely there needs to be an independant organisation.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be a time limit, but not sure how long.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely no! This implies that someone could be legally married without being present at a marriage ceremony. This is a step way too far. It domolishes the dignity and solemniny of marriage and makes it very much easier for marriages of convenience. Couples definitely should have to freely consent to marriage - there is already much leeway in the wording allowed. Certain phrased need to be retained - this is supposed to be a lifetime comittment (isn't it?), so let the service reflect that. If we allow the couple to completely personalise the ceremony, it becomes just a box ticking exercise - that bits OK, but not that bit. It is not just about the couple - marriage is a legally binding and solemn undertaking with society having an interest.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again surely not! If there is any desire to retain the dignity and solemnity of marriage there must be a large degree of proscribed content. To me, this is essential.

Again, a wedding is a public declaration in which the law and society have an interest. There is the risk (high risk actually) and trivialising the whole thing. How can a could treat it seriously as a lifetime comittment without certain vows and an air of solemnity.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure here as I am not familiar with Jewish and Quaker practices re weddings.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most definitely.

Please share your views below:

A prayer and/or Bible reading should be allowed. Don't really understand why they aren't allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors reflect the public nature of marriage declarations. I understand it was introduced to reduce the risk of forced marriages - surely this is still an issue today.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We come back to the dignity and solemnity of marriage. Just because a couple want to get married in a particular venue is not reason enough to allow it. If it is a problem, the question must be asked how serious are they about their marriage. There should be sensible rules - a widening of what is permitted at present would be good, but lines need to be drawn.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Out doors fine, but not keen on any of the others. On water or in the air is not right in my view, and private homes takes away the openness of a marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would they not be? Again the risk of forced or convenience marriages.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should choose. If they want to get married in a church, then they have the religious input. Most Christians would find it offensive that couples were getting married in a church because it is a 'nice' venue and have specifically requested no religious content. To be consistent, I suppose the same should be true of secular venues, but I believe the addition of a prayer and/or Bible reading should be allowed. Before I am accused of double standards, I make the point that marriage is inherently a religious ceremony in the presence of God and it is only relatively recently that we have deviated from that idea.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too open. There needs to be firm guidelines.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It shouldn't come down to personal opinion. There must be some lines drawn in the sand to ensure the dignity and indeed safety of venues.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firm guidance, not just suggestions.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A cautious yes - venues should still be vetted regularly.

Please share your views below:

sorry, not sure here.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English or English and Welsh. Sorry to those Welsh speakers, but they are a tiny proportion of the population of the UK. Marriage certificated should be accessible to all UK citizens.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some safeguards. If any of these factors weren't complied with, it would likely be intentional.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An example I can think of is a person in prison marrying someone. Don't really agree with that. Living together after the marriage seems to me to be pretty essential. Obviously there are circumstances where frequent and maybe prolonged periods of non-cohabitation occur, but in general marriage is about living together.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But don't really understand the question. Living together for 30 years doesn't make you married.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of a forced marriage, it could well be more than 3 years before the woman (usually) is in a position to try and do something about it.

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There should always be exceptions to the rules. One should be able to appeal for special dispensation in special circumstances.

### Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals



Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPB-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:03:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

As a recently retired church pastor

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage that is not recognised by the law is not a marriage at all.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The point of giving notice is

1. The couple have at least some time to reflect and consider if they should go ahead with the marriage.
2. It gives other people the chance to object to the marriage on the grounds that they are aware that one or both parties to the marriage are not free to marry, for example because they are already married.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the parties to the proposed marriage present themselves in person at an early stage, so that so that all who will be involved in the ceremony are satisfied that everything is genuine.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

i think a longer time, say fourteen days.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Notice should always be publicly given.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

many smaller churches in particular, as a registrar to attend weddings, although the service may be conducted by the church minister. Under the proposals every church would need to have their own authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The governing authority of churches, other than the Church of England, should be free to nominate their officiant. But the option should still be available for them to as a registrar to attend.

Non religious organisations should not be able to conduct weddings. There is a risk that all sorts of groups will claim to have belief systems and should have the right to conduct weddings.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If a list was started no-one would know when the end the list.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I don't agree. Who decides what is 'public policy' or 'morality' ?

Churches which do not wish to conduct same-sex marriages, which currently they are not legally required to do, could be accused by some people of promoting purposes which are contrary to public policy or morality.

The wording in the proposal could be too open to interpretation and misuse.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What checks would be in place so ensure that people applying to become independent officiants are suitable people? What qualifications would they need? What checks would take place regarding their honesty or integrity? Who would decide if they are fit and proper persons?

All sorts of characters could think it an easy way to earn some money.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should not be independent officiants at all but if there are the fees they charge should be regulated. Their work should not be regarded as a competitive business.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the dignity and solemnity of marriage should always be upheld. Nothing should allow to be trivialised including gimmicks or larking around.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although if the organisation failed to act the matter could be taken up by a higher authority.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, the General Register Office would need to guard against malicious complaints against the officiant just because someone didn't like their view on something such as same sex marriage.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How would you deal with a case where a wedding was conducted and afterwards it came to your attention that the officiant had not acted in a proper and fit way? Would that invalidate the marriage?

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The declaration of 'no lawful impediment' (or similar words ) should be included in the ceremony)

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to a be standard form of words. There is already some choice about the form of words and couple can add other words into the ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be possible for a couple to have a civil ceremony in a register office followed by a church service of blessing. This should not be prohibited by law.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is not just a private matter. It is a public declaration and should be open to the public.  
Having an open door policy also guards against having sham marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

weddings must be dignified and to say that a wedding can take place anywhere would not assure that.

Please share your views below:

this proposal would undermine the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony. There are already many examples of mock weddings taking place in undignified settings.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is so open to interpretation that what one person thinks is safe and dignified may not be what another person thinks. Who decides? What standards should be applied?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The need for their to be witnesses should be retained.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Remote weddings should not be allowed.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How do you define 'at risk of death'? Everyone is at risk of death.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

the venue must be dignified, so how could you check that requirement?

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

the current law does not discourage people from getting married

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBW-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:14:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, such remote arrangements are an invitation to parties whose motivation for entering such marriages lack the proper grounds and whose personal status is as to freedom to marry is unconfirmed

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not everyone (who may be interested parties) are online

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Shorter period is to ensure genuine intention of parties

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony is important and formal and should not be subject to ad hoc arrangements

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The whole of UK is an area from which parties to a marriage in England and Wales may originate - important to allow interested parties to become aware of the event

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

unnecessary

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No - see previous answer - wide publication is important

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes - bona fides of parties may need to be confirmed

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

It works presently , why impose the State?

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, not every organisation would be suitable to provide officiants

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Disagree, personal nomination is essential

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Parties should confirm there are no impediments to the marriage.

The marriage should be formed only during the ceremony and should be confirmed on signature of the declaration/marriage certificate

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All marriages should be held with appropriate dignity both the ceremony and the location

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public statement

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers - appropriate dignity should be maintained

Please share your views below:

See previous answers - appropriate dignity should be maintained and the marriage is a public statement, this would seem to exclude lakes, rivers, in the air, and private homes

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see previous answers

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

no problems

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Protection from undue influence of such a person is essential

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

none of these

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

none of these

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

none of these

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

none of these

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

none of these

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

none of these

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

If there is any area of current law which discourages marriage it is social benefits and tax - fundamental review of these impacts should be undertaken

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The basic costs are small compared with mainly voluntary expenses which occur.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above, basic costs of marriage are small when compared with the other expenses entered into

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The proposed changes to the law should not be camouflaged as a beneficial change leading to a much better "bargain" price for those happy people getting married. The overall effect of the proposed changes are an obvious attempt to ensure the marriage ceremony is trivialised and carried out at short notice anywhere with or without any serious planning for a long term future.

For these reasons, I am opposed to the great majority of the proposed changes.

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

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Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

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Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The proposed changes to the law should not be camouflaged as a beneficial change leading to a much better "bargain" price for those happy people getting married. The overall effect of the proposed changes are an obvious attempt to ensure the marriage ceremony is trivialised and carried out at short notice anywhere with or without any serious planning for a long term future.

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## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPF-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:17:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

None

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What about marriages of 'convenience' for immigration purposes? Why should a valid marriage be rushed?

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that any discrepancies should be apparent from the start to give time for investigation.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Should allow at least 21 days to avoid fraud.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If people genuinely wish to marry and there is no element of fraud or coercion they should be prepared to attend in person. What is easiest is not always right.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Transparency is always best.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what is meant by 'schedule.'

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Different rules to the Anglian Church.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In these dangerous times, any place of worship can be a target of violence and destruction.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

In the Church where the wedding is to be celebrated and on-line.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Definitely.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Very difficult to define...anything weird or outlandish that would generally offend.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps giving too much leeway. Would Satanists be included?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the independent officiant is a member of a reputable organisation.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there must be some official oversight to ensure that this is the case.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should not be regarded as an opportunity to make money.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this needs to be extended to the whole ceremony and the participants involved. A marriage ceremony is a solemn matter and shouldn't be viewed simply as an excuse for a frivolous party.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is a matter of concern for the wider community.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Their authorisation should be for a fixed length of time and should require a reapplication at regular intervals.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consent must continue to be expressed during the marriage ceremony itself. Signing a marriage schedule is not sufficient .

A free for all with marriage vows leaves so many loop-holes. What is wrong with the current legally binding format? It must be clear that the couple are aware of the nature of the life-time commitment they are freely undertaking.

Marriage is a wider matter for society than simply a casual agreement between the two parties immediately involved.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity and gravity of marriage is severely threatened by using it simply as an excuse for a party. The core function of marriage should be a life long commitment to another person and this should be the focus of the ceremony - not an excuse to indulge in whimsical notions of a 'fairy tale' day.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple want a religious ceremony they should apply for one. Not try for a mish-mash of the two.

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If it's not broke, don't try to fix it. There may be good reason for the delay in being able to arrange a religious service and couples shouldn't be deprived of the opportunity to have one.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has been described as 'the public acknowledgement of a private intention.' Why remove the need for transparency? What is there to hide? It opens even wider the possibility of fraud and coercion.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This reduces marriage to the level of a theme park entertainment. We need to save people from themselves if they decide they wish to have a ceremony in a totally unsuitable environment. If they wish to marry in a fast food restaurant, for example, are they really considering what marriage really means or is it just a stunt to amuse their friends?

Please share your views below:

Registered buildings should be used, except in cases of severe illness. The silly fad for finding the most 'amusing' place as a wedding venue devalues the whole solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Transparency again.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious and civil marriages should be kept completely separate, People should make their choice. The only exception could be if a religious ceremony was needed in the case of serious illness.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult - it depends of the officiant's sound judgement. There would need to be some oversight on this to avoid inappropriately frivolous locations being chosen.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The Registrar in the locality.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses.  
The marriage must be registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This happens with fraudulent marriages used to avoid immigration rules.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not known.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Might be abused.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only in emergencies.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As above.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should only be a last resort - not as a 'fairy tale' backdrop.

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Only by people who think it 'might be fun' or persons anxious to avoid public scrutiny.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Don't think it would make any difference.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is not the cost or convenience of arranging a wedding that discourages people from marrying. It is a basic lack of commitment in a society that doesn't value the institution as it should. Recent trends in society have devalued traditional marriage and the wish for a fancy-dress party have replaced it. Very sad.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Getting married is too easy, hence the high divorce rates. This is among the people who have bothered to get married anyway.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDB3-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:30:06

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Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

ONE MONTH

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

NO REMOTE INTERVIEWS

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

YES

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

YES

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A LIST

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

THE LAW SHOULD EXCLUDE SUCH ORGANISATIONS

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

NO ONLY NAMED INDIVIDUALS

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE LIFETIME COMMITMENT IS STRESSED AND THAT THE DIGNITY AND SOLEMNITY OF THAT COMMITMENT ARE OBSERVED

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

IT MUST LIE WITH THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FULLY RECOGNISED CHURCHES

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

IT CANNOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO GET MARRIED WITHOUT BEING PRESENT TO MAKE THEIR COMMITMENT VOWS IN PERSON

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

THERE ARE PROPER FORMS OF MARRIAGE AND THESE MUST BE ADHERED TO. MARRIAGE IS NOT SOME SORT OF COMPUTER GAME BUT A SOLEMN PUBLIC COMMITMENT

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

MARRIAGE IS A PUBLIC COMMITMENT

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

AGAIN THIS IS A SOLEMN AND LASTING COMMITMENT WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE IN AN APPROPRIATE PLACE RECOGNISED AS SUCH

Please share your views below:

SEE ANSWER ABOVE

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

PROVIDED THERE IS A CLEAR AND DEFINITE APPROPRIATENESS OF SUCH A LOCATION - NOT IN A MACDONALDS FOR INSTANCE

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

THE POSITION OF PERSONS IN ANY OF THOSE CATEGORIES MUST BE CONSIDERED AS RENDERING THEM INCAPABLE

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

SUCH NOTICE MUST BE IN FRONT OF INDEPENDENT WITNESSES

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:



No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

STANDARD FEE

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD39-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:44:31

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What is your name?

Name:

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### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should also be a further responsibility to ensure that the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony is upheld and definitions would be helpful to avoid publicity seeking stunts eg in aeroplanes followed by parachute jumps

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Signing a schedule is insufficient as couples could say anything they like or nothing at all. This would undermine the solemnity of the occasion as well as reducing the seriousness of the commitment.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Choosing your own form of words reflects a wrong view of marriage which is a public declaration of a definite and serious lifelong commitment. We already see 'themed' wedding ceremonies which undermine the seriousness of what is being entered into eg Harry Potter, Game of Thrones

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open Doors requirement was brought in centuries ago to protect against forced marriages which still needs guarding against today

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Such allowances would dilute the seriousness of the marriage commitment.

Where would the line be drawn? Presumably the location could also be on the beach, in a car, in a coffee shop etc etc

It is incompatible with the dignity of marriage and sets the wrong tone for the marriage bond which will be tested in good times and bad, sickness and health, until death separates.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Good in principle, but how will the location be tested as such? Will not each officiant have their own idea of 'dignity' and 'safety' which will differ between individual assessments and tastes?

There needs to be greater clarity of the terms being used and some kind of oversight brought into play.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBH-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:46:19

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Name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Telephone number:

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but it does not go far enough. Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. the proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity' of marriage so that frivolous content is not accepted in what is a serious event.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A person should be present at the wedding ceremony for it to be recognised. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. I strongly disagree that couples should be able to say whatever they like as this undermines the understanding and solemnity of what marriage is. There is already flexibility in what the couples can say - the current prescribed words should be regarded as an absolute minimum requirement.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony will undermine how many people understand marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. It is not just a private, personal matter. The state needs to set certain minimum standards for the conduct of weddings.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keeping the 'open door' provision makes it clear that a wedding is a public event and helps to protect against forced marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst it is good to have flexibility in the kind of places that can host a wedding, I think there needs to be minimum requirements to again respect the seriousness and solemnity of marriage.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

On land seems to be sensible minimum requirement

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would not comply with the public nature of a wedding

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provision seems to respect and protect the rights of different beliefs systems equally

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is clear guidance

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be more clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD38-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:48:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I subscribe to Campaign for Marriage.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In a sense a object to the word "officiants." Where does that word come from?

What I am trying to say is that the secularism of the marriage ceremony is failing to protect the serious obligation that spouse should feel regarding marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is no limit to the way the marriage is to be conducted in the sense that it is a personal choice then why bother involving the state?

It is getting to be a complete joke.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity and seriousness of the commitment to a life-long relationship should be maintained and not denigrated.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One of the objects of having an open door policy is to avoid forced marriages.

Forced marriages should not be allowed.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anywhere?

Are people going to have a laugh?

Again the dignity of the marriage ceremony should be maintained and not be subjected to flippant dismissal as inconsequential.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding ceremony should be more that safe and dignified.

There is a great danger that the officiants will be open to persuasion by the couple that anything can be made safe!

Again the dignity of the wedding ceremony should be maintained and not subject to arbitrary decisions based on for example amusements.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDP5-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:53:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage that is recognised by the law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It has meant that two of our family's weddings have been postponed

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel it important that if a marriage that takes place in an England or Wales district both parties should be resident in an English or Welsh district for a period of at least a week

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They must attend an in-person interview

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person should be always

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

In the circumstances given, it should be possible.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential to have the notices published (online and elsewhere) to allow any concerns to be raised

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What schedule?

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the substitute is relevantly qualified

Please share your views below:

No



Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be read where each participant lives

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, they should be read in each party's local parish

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes! Of course

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No

This opens the door to banning (say) a church from officiating if they subscribe to legally held views about marriage which are contrary to public policy

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, I think it should not be automatic

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should always come from an organisation

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an appeals process which is publicly held

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an appeals process which is publicly held

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The parties should express that there is no impediment, and that they each consent to the marriage, as part of the public part of the ceremony, in front of witnesses. This should be orally if possible or spoken on their behalf in exceptional cases.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Hymns  
Religious readings  
Prayer

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should allow public access and be public knowledge to allow concern (eg due to knowledge of an impediment to the marriage) to be expressed

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be properly licensed sites

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

A wedding should be held where any members of the public could reasonably attend

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All wedding locations should be publicly accessible

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where no religious venue is reasonably available, a non-religious venue should be allowed.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a register of licensed venues

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In England, English only

In Wales, Welsh or English (recognising that a number of Welsh residents do not speak Welsh)

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration could take place alongside (or subsequent to) paper registration

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage must take place in front of witnesses

The schedule must be signed at the time of the marriage

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple have stated in a public ceremony that there are no restrictions on the marriage, and they are each entering the marriage freely, there should be no requirement to cohabit (although that is the normal expectation)

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple and the witnesses must be present in person and one copy of the schedule signed

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be evidence! We're all at risk of death when we cross a road

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No, unless one party has a naval or nautical connection

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Disagree with the proposal

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with underlying proposal

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with underlying proposal

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with underlying proposal

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with underlying proposal

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Disagree with underlying proposal

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree with underlying proposal

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think the current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There must be a pre-approval process - marriage should be a considered undertaking and the venue should be appropriate to a public ceremony

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPK-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:59:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am speaking on my own behalf

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn and very important institution, it should not be devalued in any way. A true marriage is held according to the law and in a place of Christian worship

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would make it seem like it is a ceremony of no consequence. People need to be in a stable situation before undertaking such an important ceremony.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Don't see a problem with this

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

To allow due time for careful consideration by both parties the period should be at least 3 months

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This would be too open to abuse particularly in the case of forced marriages

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Don't see this as a problem

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing further to say

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing further to add

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Naming the officiant will help ensure some thought is being given to the process

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practically this is necessary

Please share your views below:

Only in highly exceptional circumstances

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be published in the area the wedding is to take place

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obsolete provision

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be published more widely

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Seems sensible for an officiant to be sure the identities of the couple are correct.

Separate meetings should not be necessary unless the officiant has reasons to believe something is amiss

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should, as they should in any situation, not just in Anglican weddings

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Christian element of marriage is paramount

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fundamental requirements

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a poor alternative to marriage in a place of worship it is vital that some control is exercised over who can officiate

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment except that it should apply to all clergy including non-conformist ministers

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to churches, no to non-religious belief organisations

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Claptrap

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too open to all sorts of nutcases

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

On the face of it yes, but as the government passes laws that quite obviously immoral and anti- Christian then this could be extremely dangerous

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

All people all are not clergy should be certified by government

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

ok

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Government should decide if they are fit and proper

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

ok

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Shouldn't be a money making exercise

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't really understand the conflict of interest bit. Not upto government to set fees

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Can't see why this should necessary

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a tight definition of what is dignified and solemn enough for such an important ceremony to ensure that totally wacky scenarios are considered appropriate.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ultimate control should be with government

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Suuggest reregistration and checkign should occur every 5 years

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All statements of willingness and lack of impediments is an important part of the ceremony and should be made in person during the ceremony.

There is a great danger that the seriousness of the promises being made will be undermined if the existing required forms of words is abandoned.

Marriage is not just about the couples, it should include the proper committment to vows and as something recognised in law it should not be just up to the couples to decide what form of words is used.

Signing of the appropriate documents must be done during the ceremony

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The form of wedding that some people might choose would be totally inappropriate to this serious ceremony.

Weddings are where public declarations should be made in which society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should have to have the current legally required words

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If for any reason people are unable to have a church wedding this shouldn't prohibit this being blessed in church afterwards

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Very definitely no.

Weddings are a public event not purely a private matter.

This would make forced marriages much easier to accomplish

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should take place in premises licensed for marriages.

The likelihood of weddings taking place in inappropriate settings for such a serious ceremony would increase dramatically.

Please share your views below:

In principle weddings could take place outside but there would need to be strict limits on the interpretation of this, this also applies to point 2.

Definitely not. Would be open to some weird interpretations and means the wedding is not a public event as it should be.

Again, definitely no and this emphasises the idea that weddings are a purely private and not a public event.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again this sends the wrong message about the public nature of weddings

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any religious organisation worth its salt would not allow non-religious belief ceremonies to take place on its premises

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Very definitely not. Locations should be locations licensed for marriages

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There would need to be strict guidelines laid down as to what constitutes dignity and safety

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

But it does need to be proscriptive and tight

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All locations should be licensed for weddings

Please share your views below:

The Registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comments

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should always be in English with any other language as an addition

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comments

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be witnesses and marriages should always be registered

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Co-habitation is an intergal part of being married. It would encourage "sham" marriages

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What people assume is an irrelevance

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any time limit could make forced marriages less likely to be challenged, if a young girl is forced into marriage it may be some years before she feels able to speak up.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obvious

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't know enough to comment

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But with sensitivity

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current regulations seem fine to me

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No other comment

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings must be a public event

No

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing further to say

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could lead to some silly ceremonies unbecfitting of the seriousness and dignity required

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, could lead to some rushed unions

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No again could lead to rushed unions

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I don't think they should happen this question is superfluous

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, superfluous

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again superfluous

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again superfluous

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No views except they shouldn't happen

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again as they shouldn't happen the question is irrelevant

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

### Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

If the fee is purely to cover costs they shouldn't be an issue

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst believing this type of wedding to be very much second best as it's going to happen the fee should be prescribed in regulation

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although if locations had to be licensed for weddings this would not be necessary on an individual ceremony

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should not be a revenue making action

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

### Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think the fee should be at cost-recovery

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No further comment

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No evidence either way

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

What a wedding costs is largely in the hands of the participants, there is no necessity to spend overmuch

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again, if cost is an issue, keep it simple

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No further comments

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No further comments

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No knowledge

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No knowledge

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No comment

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD37-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 11:59:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private citizen

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Like my freedom of legal privacy.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cuts out rash spontaneous choices

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Wld be ok if sure the person being forced to marry

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Dont know

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Unclear what that really means

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:



Please share your views below:

Best to continue general public notices- marriage is a community affair

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this kind of information is important

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Its a good safe requirement.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know why more may be needed?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1) - yes

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Can't comment

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Can't comment

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but with real dignity and solemnity which is already in place.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1a- yes

1b- no

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If couples wish to acknowledge something specific, yes.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's a serious but healthy community access.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Heaven only knows knows what that cld lead to.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as not undermining the seriousness and solemnity of the occasion, and public have access.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't know anyone who's been discouraged from marrying under present law.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Think all costs should be kept very low whether religious or civic

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think that there is enough variety and availability already existing.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comments

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBD-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:02:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I would like my name to be kept confidential to protect my privacy please.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The 2 weddings we were invited to were cancelled.

One eventually went ahead later in the year but only with 15 guests. It was very sad for the couple not to include close family & friends (even siblings)

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

helps safeguard/able to assess better if this is a marriage both sides agree to, ie not forced

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If another appropriate officiant can be found so that the wedding can go ahead rather than being cancelled last minute

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Also in the churches of where both parties live as people will know them there & can go along & hear them read out & be prayed for, as the venue church may not be where they live

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

would help safe guard forced or sham marriages & also help the couple to meet, chat & think things through with someone who can help them prepare for marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

safe guard the seriousness of this commitment

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Getting married in a church with a religious ceremony is making that commitment before God & therefore only a minister should take those ceremonies

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

to ensure that an appropriate person is taking the serious ceremony

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes to safe guard against groups that seek to undermine the seriousness nature of what marriage is

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's a serious commitment & shouldn't be taken lightly so any ceremony by an organisation should be seriously thought through

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely. To allow otherwise is very dangerous for humanity

Although there needs to be very clear guidelines on what is contrary to public policy & morality

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

safe guards & regulates who is carrying out these ceremonies & that they are in line with what marriage actually is both legally & morally.

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But with clear guidelines from governmental policy on what 'fit & proper' persons are

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

SO they know the seriousness of what they are doing & to safe guard/regulate against inappropriate weddings being performed

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

marriage is a solemn & serious commitment not a business opportunity

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be guideline to what is appropriate fees otherwise they are making it a business opportunity

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

conflict of interests

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it needs to go further to make sure the officiant has a responsibility for the content of the ceremony & that the ceremony also upholds the dignity & solemnity of marriage.

It is also extremely important to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

same reasons as above

otherwise a 'marriage ceremony' could be anywhere anything goes which goes against what marriage really is - a serious commitment

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only with back up/ duty to inform an independent/government policy organisation that can assist/check all is dealt with properly

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

to ensure they are serious about their role & are appropriate to be in that position as with any other job this would be required

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Simply signing a document is not enough, each person needs to be present at their wedding & verbally agree to consent as with the perscribed words. It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony.

Public declarations of the couple's intentions & commitments to one another is a fundamental part of the marriage ceremony. It should not be possible for couples to say anything they like or nothing at all. This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

The perscribed words required at present are too much & the ceremony can be personalised in many others ways at present so they really shouldn't be removed

to ensure that both people consent to the marriage & the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

Marriage is not a personal hobby or where a couple can say anything they like (ie we'll we'll try & be faithful or love one another but if we can't doesn't matter etc).

Marriage is also a legal & public declaration of life long commitment that safe guards society it is not just a private matter for the couple.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious & solemn commitment & a public declaration that needs safe guarding for the good of society- the ceremony should therefore be appropriate for that commitment not just whatever the couple wants.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives the choice to the couples to personalise their ceremony towards what they believe without compromising the serious commitment & legal procedure of the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

an example can include readings from religious text like The Bible & songs that have a religious nature.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations & helps protect against forced marriage which is still a big problem today.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony needs to be protected. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because

they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

A wider variety of venues being allowed can bring some benefits but that doesn't mean that inappropriate settings should be allowed.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The above venues in some cases would be fine but it needs to be clearly defined as to what an appropriate use of this place would be.

For example a private garden with an fit & proper officiant with a serious & legal ceremony with verbal commitments that have been prescribed by law is fine

but a private home could also be something inappropriate like a brothel/ S&M dungeon/forced marriage. Sex slave trafficking is a major problem & allowing ay kind of marriage ceremony in a private home with no safe guards is very dangerous.

Venues like ' in the air' open up all sorts of venues, fast food restaurants, weddings at conventions/concerts, under water etc which would detract totally from the serious commitment that a marriage ceremony is & makes it hard to apply the safe/appropriate/dignified test to safe guard this

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

marriage is a public declaration & in society;s interest so should be accessible to public & safe guards against forced marriage too.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If you don't hold a religious belief the only reason you would pick a 'religious venue' is for it's looks as a building & maybe it's capacity to hold enough people. This nullifies the sanctity to marriage to religious faiths.

A couple that want to marry with a religious ceremony in a civil/ non religious venue is fine as there is not the same sanctity of that venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But with clearly defined guidelines they must adhere to

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but there is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety".

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent so therefore safeguards should be proposed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please see above answer again - need to be clearly defined

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Helps keep a check on appropriate places

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

safe guarding marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

safe guarding marriage

### Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They are not married. There has been no public declaration of commitment or legal procedure. This undermines marriage totally.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If there was lack of consent as soon as it is proved they should be allowed to nullify even if it was many years ago.

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

protects marriage & couple

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

safe guard them & marriage

### Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That sounds like it would be more open to mis use?



Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

they all need to be in the same place at the same time to make those vows/declarations to one another legally

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need to have checks that the officiant is appropriate

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

same as for marriages not on sea

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBC-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:05:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

-

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How do you know that this is not a forced marriage of some kind if something is not known about those taking part

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Time to reflect

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

How do you know that this is not a forced marriage of some kind if those taking part cannot be seen in person?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Possibly

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Risk of harm to a participant or forced involvement should mean that their details are available as widely as possible.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why change something that works?

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are due another war

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No restrictions should apply - allow online

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Very sensible.

The clergy should have the additional responsibility to ensure it would not be a marriage of convenience or permit 1 partner to be abused.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agreed, they should

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be considered a spiritual undertaking

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Non-religious belief organisations should not be allowed to officiate

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Non-religious belief organisations should not be allowed to officiate

Please share your views below:

Non-religious belief organisations should not be allowed to officiate

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Separate ideas:

1. Definition is too restrictive - If it is a recognized religious organisation, then that should be adequate

2. Just 'a sincerely held belief about marriage'

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If a recognized religious organisation then it should be of no concern of government officials.

Allowing officialdom to interfere in religious matters should be forbidden

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The religious organisation should be allowed to nominate those that are qualified.

Non-religious organisations should not come into this.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No logical reason for that except the authorities exerting unnecessary control over something that should not be its business

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They would have to belong to a religious organisation, and officiate only in that same religious organisation

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They would have to be ethical and of good standing within that religious organisation.

Again, the religious organisations should be free to decide that without interference.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this should be determined by the religious organisations

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

From a legal perspective only - There should be no control exerted over the ceremony itself

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes and no - This concept should not be allowed to penalise religious organisations.

The religious organisation in question would take measures to retrain or exclude said failing officiant.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only a religious organisation can do that

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We do not need or want independent officiates

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That opens them up to a moral dilemma where religious matters can be overridden by legal dogma

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

1a - YES

1b - should be required to express that there is no impediment to their marrying each other - Vital this is done.

2 - 'Should be allowed' Either it is a requirement or not - But it should not become a requirement, or we can expect more interference from officialdom.

3 - YES

4 - YES

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Additionally, the ceremony should be in English.

If translators are used then the officiate would not be able to know if the marriage was an honest one.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be possible for ALL religious organisations, not just those mentioned

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A religious ceremony requires that it be a religious one

Please share your views below:

All religious content should be allowed, as per the doctrines laid down by that organisation

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some people would want both

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be in a suitable building or open ground run by a religious organisation, within the UK

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Should be on religious property

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no secret weddings

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be one of common sense and rules supplied by a religious organisation

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

not required

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As English is the official language of the UK that should always be used

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Let's see what that entails before proposing it

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

5. if it was a marriage of convenience

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 - YES

2 - NO - Must have witnesses

3 - NO - Must have valid signatures

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Co-habitation is surely the main reason to marry

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Special efforts should be made to ensure that nobody is being forced to marry

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not --- There are no emergencies that should affect the way people are married

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not --- There are no emergencies that should affect the way people are married

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Standard rules should apply - must be a trained registrar or a religious official authorised to marry people.

No

Please expand on your answer:

As applies to religious organisations

No

Please expand on your answer:

Standard rules should apply - must be a trained registrar or a religious official authorised to marry people.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Limited

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1 - No

2 - No

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The requirement here should be to reduce the level at which authorities need to be involved, thus cutting costs.

Let's not add costs for the sake of bureaucracy.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3U-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:09:43

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because it is important that the couples should be resident in one of the areas, rather than say "in the air"

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with 1 but not with 2.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only used in extreme circumstances as what has been suggested

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

### Consultation Question 14:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It should be also in the church where the other partner is resident

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No the law should contain religious organisations

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yet those proposals doesn't go far enough. Officiants should be able to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples must be present at their weddings

There is the risk of undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the serious commitment

Specific phrases should be used, as is already the case in the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be held in a registered place and not just anywhere

It is a serious commitment and a public declaration

It should be a serious ceremony and not using light-hearted frivolities such as Game of Thrones etc

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors requirement helps convey to the public the nature the wedding declarations

It was introduced many years ago to protect against forced marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There might be some benefits for churches who don't have their own building,

Please share your views below:

Yes all these venues shoul dnot be allowed

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is lack of clarity as to how venues would be judged to be safe and and dignified for a wedding

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3E-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:09:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Privacy is important.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What happens at the moment?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Implications not clear.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be two.

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 is not enough.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes



Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be statutory limits on fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be the ultimate responsibility of the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absurd that this should be a 4 part question with single answer.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a public undertaking, not a private one.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ridiculous provision.

Please share your views below:

Don't understand the question.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be the General Register Office to approve.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General Register Office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English or English and Welsh

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All 3 are absolute requirements.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation is part of the marriage process.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be executed in shored-based premises rendering the subsequent questions inapplicable.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

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Consultation Question 89:

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Consultation Question 90:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBU-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:12:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

N/A

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

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N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A



Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that "residence" has been interpreted so loosely that it is not meaningful and has not been so for decades

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

If preliminaries are to be the main safeguard against illegal, forced or false marriages, there must be adequate time for officials to check the background to any marriage. Seven days should be an absolute minimum except where life expectancy is shorter than that.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should never be done remotely. There is too much risk of invisible interference in the process.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the public are easily and freely able to see them. Also it should be possible for close relatives, particularly parents to register to be informed of the notice in relation to named individuals. This would increase the chance of avoiding an illegal or forced marriage

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If an officiant is taken ill shortly before or even during a marriage it must be possible for a substitute to take over without the need for more paperwork, which can be done retrospectively in such an event.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Please share your views below:

see above

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The important thing is that banns should be published where they will be heard by the relevant people.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You have a touching belief that Britain will never again be exposed to bombs!

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. At present banns are published in the churches relevant to the couple getting married

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No. It may be impractical to require to meet the individuals separately, but the clergy already use their discretion

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. I think that is essential

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

is there any evidence that Anglican preliminaries are inadequate?

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is fundamental

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages in non-Anglican churches and chapels, as was mine, need a registration officer present to make the marriage legal

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is fine for the officiant but says nothing about the meaning or nature of the ceremony. The law needs to defend the seriousness of marriage as a lifelong commitment, not just its dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If officiants are required to undergo proper training then further guidance is superfluous

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the General Register Office must act in the event of being notified that an individual is alleged not to comply with the standard of a fit and proper person.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the requirements for CPD are reasonable

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. It is absolutely fundamental that each party to a marriage should publicly and openly state that they are free to marry and that there are no impediments. This is the core of a marriage ceremony and any watering down of this requirement sends the message that the event is a party and not a

serious lifelong commitment between two people who mean what they say. It is essential that there is an unambiguous, legally binding contract set out in agreed terms. If the couple are not able to make that commitment then they should not be getting married.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above. Yes, they can add what they like to suit them selves but the central core of the ceremony, must be a formal and binding contract. If you depart from that, it opens the floodgates to litigants who wish to dispute whether the form of words constituted a contract or not, or even whether they actually gave consent to a legally binding contract

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A marriage should reflect the wishes of the couple within the context of the marriage contract, and to exclude deliberately any religious words, poems prayers or songs seems perverse.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever for?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public declaration of the couple's commitment and union and the public should be able to witness it. To hold a marriage behind closed doors will facilitate forced and illegal marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Frankly that makes a nonsense of marriage being a solemn and dignified ceremony

Please share your views below:

How can a marriage in the air or on water be open to the public? I think a marriage out of doors can indeed be suitable but there should be official approval of the venue A private home would be suitable if it was open to the public for the ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not for the reasons given above. Punlic access if fundamental to the nature of the marriage contract.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing should be enacted which would give couples the power to put pressure on the incumbents or other authorities of any religious building to use that building to carry out a marriage ceremony of a nature or form with which they did not approve or believe in.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The suitability of a venue needs to be approved by somebody suitable, but not necessarily the officiant. However if the officiant decided that he/she was not satisfied with the venue then he/she should be able to veto it as long as this was done before the venue had been booked

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone who is suitable to be an officiant shouldn't need guidance as to the suitability of a venue

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Please share your views below:

I presume there is already a process for approving venues for civil ceremonies so let it continue

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that a marriage without witnesses would be open to abuse, though it might be that in certain circumstances as few as two witnesses might be all that was possible. Otherwise I approve the idea that simple mistakes should not make a marriage void

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Even in a national emergency, it should not be possible to marry remotely. This is asking for trouble. Marry in haste and repent at leisure. In a national emergency people are in an emotional state and may get married for fear of what may happen to either of them a decision they would not have taken in a calmer frame of mind.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Every human being is more than "at risk of death". We are all certain of death. If you are talking about premature death, that would include the armed forces, the emergency services and all the NHS staff during a pandemic.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. See above

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe your proposals in their totality will diminish the importance status and dignity of marriage as a lifelong commitment between two willing parties.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3G-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:13:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

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Personal response

If other, please state::

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What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

n/a

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Recognised by law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provides evidence of a serious undertaking

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree but there ought to be clarity and definition as to dignity and solemnity mean.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Persons getting married need to be present at wedding. Recognised forms of words need to be said and witnessed. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them. It is not much to ask that specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the commitment.

Marriage is serious commitment . The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony as it is not just about the couple.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Words need to be appropriate and not just what the couple fancy.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public matter and not a private do. It also guards against forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should be appropriate not simply what marrying couples fancy - a MacDonald's venue belittles the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD31-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:24:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Self

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I should like my personal data protected appropriately.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they don't who will?

They need to have power to enforce this, of which the easiest is to refuse to hold the ceremony but with the power to register that refusal on-line so that other officiants can see this and the rationale.

We need to define dignity and solemnity as well as its reach over the whole ceremony and have a clear record of the interpretation being taken whether going ahead or refusing. An appeal process based on precedent applicable to the whole UK would make sense.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too wishy-washy. Marriage is intended to be a serious contract for life - the words about this (and reasons why marriage may not be valid) need to be prescribed and not "of choice". The purpose of marriage is to ensure that both parties are fully aware, form the bond freely, with the intention of lifelong. If the state has any duty, it is to uphold these things. If it feels it has no duty or wishes to dilute these duties to practically none, well it should keep out and return the ceremony to organisations capable of recognising that duty and have civil partnerships as its domain. If the couple don't believe in marriage, one's best advice is not to marry. If the state doesn't believe in marriage, our best advice is to leave it to those who do. Marriage is not just a meaningless word except for its meaning in tax law.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I suspect from this proposal that the panel drawing this up have little idea of the meaning of marriage to the vast bulk of those who are married. They must be living in the unthinking woke bubble. They are in that sense like the old Russian nihilists - reducing everything to nothing - because of a lack of common belief.

The purpose of the marriage ceremony is to ensure that both parties are fully aware, form the bond freely, with the intention of lifelong, witnesses by friends and family. If the state has any duty, it is to uphold these things. If it feels it has no duty or wishes to dilute these duties to practically none, well it should keep out and return the ceremony to organisations capable of recognising that duty and have civil partnerships as its domain. If the couple don't believe in marriage, one's best advice is not to marry. If the state doesn't believe in marriage, our best advice is to leave it to those who do. Marriage is not just a meaningless word except for its meaning in tax law.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a purpose of "open doors", which in the modern parlance is "transparency". With forced marriages on the up again, we surely need this rather than getting rid of it.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is crazy. It comes after you have promised dignity and solemnity. Would you permit a public lavatory?

Please share your views below:

The implications of ticking a box above are unclear. This peaks volumes about your whole consultation. It is unclear.

The typical approach of a registry office followed by a celebration in a private home (and the rest of your list) is a good one. But the other way round suggests the danger of lack of seriousness could creep in - well a bit faster than creep is likely!

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The best way ahead seems to me to have a prescribed list of locations and have the officiant ensure that it is safe and dignified, with clear rules on what that means. Guidelines will become nothing. The officiant will be in danger of being sued for his/her own interpretation of these. Fear of being non-woke will then mean anything goes.

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDP1-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:29:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a trivial undertaking and should not be the result of a 'spur of the moment' decision. The residential qualification is part of the process that requires forethought.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult to imagine why such a serious undertaking would need a lesser period of time.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews are a poor substitute for a face to face encounter which once again reinforces the importance of the undertaking.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The requirement to meet the couple 'separately' may seem onerous but if the couple were able to attend the meeting together then at that time it would also be possible for each to be seen separately.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

See above....this reinforces the individual responsibility to enter into marriage in good faith.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 members seems far too small a number. This does not constitute an 'organisation' but rather a 'club'.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is a potentially contentious area and would need very careful consideration; public policy itself may be regarded by some organisations as immoral. The question here is who will be the arbiter? For example would opposition to same-sex marriage be regarded as 'contrary to public policy or morality'? This could raise issues of 'freedom of conscience'.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This has to be considered in the context of marriage as a serious undertaking. Perhaps there should be a minimum period in office before such authorisation is approved.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What qualifications would an 'independent officiant' be required to hold?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be strictly regulated.....officiating at a marriage should not become a commercial undertaking.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above. If this were allowed how long before we start to see weddings with 'celebrity officiants' for those prepared to pay the fees?

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it would be also possible for concerns to be raised by a person outside of the organisation.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a union understood by society and legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be a purely personal matter with no connection to the law and wider society. It should not be possible to get married without a formal statement in person which is at least in part common to all who undertake the commitment. This common form of words emphasises that this is an enterprise that society regards as non-trivial. There is already considerable flexibility for couples to add to the prescribed words. Allowing couples to say whatever they want (or even nothing) trivialises the institution of marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once again there should be a basic non-reducible framework that all participants comply with. If they are unable or unwilling to conform to such a simple requirement how will they manage to cope with the necessary compromises and sacrifices necessary to sustain a lasting marriage? Allowing participants to effectively do whatever they like will further diminish the seriousness and dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current rules allow sufficient flexibility to comply with religious requirements but there should still be a minimum irreducible framework that is a requirement of all marriages.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see no beneficial point in repealing this provision.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is an important point that weddings should be seen to be in the public space rather than behind closed doors. Removing the requirement encourages the perception that marriage is an entirely private matter without any public significance. Making a requirement for public access also represents a protection against forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This provision potentially undermines or trivialises the dignity of the institution. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples choose them, but because they are appropriate places to uphold the seriousness of such a significant ceremony.

Please share your views below:

There is a danger that the seriousness and dignity of marriage will be undermined by couples trying to find more and more 'novelty venues'. For a once-in-a-lifetime commitment the venue should reflect the seriousness of the undertaking rather than simply the wishes of the couple involved. Could it possibly be appropriate for a wedding to take place underwater or whilst skydiving? Even weddings in private homes may be inappropriate due to lack of public access.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For reasons already stated society has an interest in these solemn undertakings. They should be conducted in the public space.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing non-religious belief weddings to take place in religious venues is inappropriate and illogical. It also potentially opens the door to claims of discrimination if religious organisations decline to allow access to sacred spaces for non religious weddings.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There would be a conflict of interest for the officiant where a couple wanted a particularly bizarre venue and if the officiant declined to approve the couple may be inclined to try another officiant until they found one that approved the venue. There needs to be clear guidance on which venues are appropriate for such an important ceremony.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The definition 'Safe and dignified' is far too vague. There would need to be stringent safeguards to prevent a descent into venues being chosen for their novelty value which would further trivialise the institution of marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once again this phrase 'safe and dignified' is a very vague and notwithstanding GRO guidance the determination should not be left in the hands of the officiant.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a venue 'frequently holds weddings' then presumably it has been approved? Why would it require an 'optional pre-approval process'???

Please share your views below:

The venue should apply to the GRO or the local registrar for approval.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be provision for a hard copy to be provided in addition to electronic registration.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are an important part of the transparency of the process.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The cohabitation requirement is a safeguard against marriages of convenience.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is difficult to imagine a Scenario where it would be beneficial for a marriage to take place remotely without the physical presence of the parties involved.

No

Please expand on your answer:

If such an emergency existed then the emergency provisions should only apply to those affected.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps this should only apply to members of the armed forces?

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the venue is appropriate to the seriousness and dignity of the institution of marriage. A marriage conducted on surf boards or inflatables would not meet this criteria and would trivialise the ceremony. Also it could hardly be claimed to be a public space in the sense of practical open access.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Once again it is important that the institution is not trivialised or that it causes a competition to find the 'strangest venue'. Also the principle of 'open-door access' that stems from the institution being of legitimate public interest would be lost if say a wedding were to be conducted off shore on a private yacht .

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Weddings should be able to be conducted by ships chaplains if required.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be set at a level to encourage the choice of dignified venues likely to be approved rather than speculative applications to see if approval can be gained for 'novelty venues'.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBV-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:31:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Select

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Unsure. What about confirming identities?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes. for example cults.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes. but the catholic church promotes the sanctity of life from conception whereas secular law allows killing unborn babies in the womb. the catholic view is morally correct.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

marriage is between a man and a woman for life.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to swift de-authorisation if found to have failed in their duties

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

couples should declare their intent, consent and no impediment at the marriage ceremony

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

marriage is a solemn and sacred union of one woman and one man until death do them part

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

catholic church as well

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

readings, hymns, poems and prayers which are deemed by the relevant religious group

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

marriage is a public declaration

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

only in locations deemed appropriate by the relevant religious group (for example a consecrated place - church / chapel)

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The relevant religious authority should decide

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the relevant religious authority agreeing on the suitability of the venue

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The relevant religious authority should give the ok

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No. Subject to the solemnity of the marriage etc.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3C-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:32:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

always in person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Online and elsewhere to allow any concerns to be raised

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

banns should be read where the participant lives

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

no they should be published at the home churches as well

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think they should be seen separately

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes both couples should be seen separately

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage in the church of England is a sacrament

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No This opens the door to a Religion being banned from marrying people because their beliefs about marriage differ from Government policy

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

hymn Readings Prayers

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the participants want a blessing service they should be able to have one

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All wedding should allow public access

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Only in an appropriate setting

Please share your views below:

Only In properly licenced spaces that have been inspected

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be both a paper record and also electronic

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

YOu must have witnesses and signitures

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They are not married

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPZ-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:40:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that a public declaration of intent to marry should apply as a safeguard against either forced, or “spur of the moment” marriages.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

There must be sufficient time for checks to be made that the couple are legally free to marry.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why such authority should be the reserve of the C of E .

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should apply to all Church ministers irrespective of denomination.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches do not have a centralised governing authority. In such a case a local church, as under current legislation, should be able to have a person or persons within it legally recognised to officiate as the registrar.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

All such “organisations” should be fully open to public scrutiny and have popular support.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not see where “professional development” is applicable in such matters.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayer for the couple should be possible.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The possibility of public scrutiny should be maintained, weddings should not take place behind closed doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues for marriage should reflect the seriousness and dignity of the act.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The officiant and couple should seek agreement.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if “religious” registration officers are still authorised.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but only if the registration officer is free to waive the fee.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but only if the registration office is free to waive the fee.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but only if the registration officer is free to waive the fee.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but only if the registration officer is free to waive the fee.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but only if the registration officer is free to waive the fee.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBX-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:42:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am responding as a private person

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in a Church of England church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement is important to ensure that Marriage is not just taking place as an act convenience or a business transaction.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The in person interview must take place prior the wedding. If this in-person interview would be taking place after the wedding makes no sense + would devalue the work of our Registrars.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

7 days gives couples time to focus on their impending marriage + allows our Registrars to feel that their work is treated with respect.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is so important that these interviews must take place in person in all circumstances. How can our Registrars be expected to detect sham or forced marriages with out interviewing every couple in person. This is vitally important + cannot be be changed in any way.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This must be discontinued again because of possible sham or forced marriages.

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How would a Registrar be able to ascertain whether displaying this information would expose either of the couple to a risk of harm?

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This is a tradition + it should be continues.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

These 2 points are very important + the clergy must continue to be able to do these 2 things

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This must continue.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that couples, who wish to be married in a religious ceremony because of their faith ,should feel that they are able to do.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples who wish to marry in a religious setting due to their faith are able to do so. Having an officiant in attendance would not allow this to happen .

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be 2 officials to ensure that every thing is in order.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should happen.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This dilutes the work of our Registrars. They must have the power to ensure that these marriages are free from sham or forced marriage.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our Registrars must only have the power to preside over non Church of England marriages.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree that the law so expressly exclude these organisations .

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No this should not be allowed.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The traditional way that the conducting Marriage ceremony must continue. Marriage should not be a business agreement. It must reflect that it is a commitment that 2 people are making to care for each other. It cannot be reduced to a contract.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony should take place as standard form. It must reflect the commitment that both parties are agreeing to.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It must be ensured that Anglican, Catholic or Jewish are able to conduct their weddings with out pressure to change.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be limits to where a marriage ceremony can take place because marriage is a commitment + it cannot be reduced to an entertainment event.

Please share your views below:

To hold a marriage ceremony any where devalues the fact that it is not just an entertainment event. It is not to a social occasion but it is a serious + solemn undertaking.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues must be kept only for religious ceremonies. Religious beliefs must be respected.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couple should be able to have their marriage registered in English, both English + Welsh but not in Welsh only as it would cause difficulties in collating the data.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

This must not be allowed under any circumstances.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This must be allowed to happen.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This must not be allowed to happen as it would turn the marriage ceremony into an entertainment event.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This must not be allowed to happen.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings on ships must not be allowed to happen. They would be entertainment events.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

This must not be allowed to happen.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I feel that the current laws do not discourage or prevent couples from getting married. Your provisional proposals would possible lead to an increase in marriage. However this increase may only be temporary. I feel that there is a real problem, that couples may not want to stay in their marriages, as they had not thought through what being married actually involves.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current costs involved in arranging a marriage should not have an impact on couples wanting to marry.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriages should not be allowed to be conducted at sea.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDPJ-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 12:54:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage is recognised by law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious, not on the spur of the moment.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This trivialises marriage

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Three weeks is needed

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should not be done remotely

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice should be given in England and Wales

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. They should be widely published

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree. It is protection against forced marriages

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Two officers would guard against co-ertion

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious belief helps to underline the importance of marriage

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Entirely agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The age of 18 is too young. The age should be amended to "at least 30"

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

ENTIRELY agree

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very much agree with the duty, but ensuring the tone, the conduct and the location of the marriage is also important.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be uniformity in the procedures

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Circumstances do change, so a time limit of say 5 years should apply

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

CPD is not well defined in this instance so should not apply

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Important: Simply signing the paperwork is not enough both parties must be present.  
The form of words is very important. An agreed form of words underlines the seriousness of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony must adhere to a standard format, as now, which is recognised by everyone to acknowledge that marriage is a serious event both for the couple and for society at large

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that it maintains the dignity and seriousness of the ceremony

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors allow the general public to participate to some extent in the ceremony, as witnesses, and help to eliminate co-ertion and forced marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely NOT. The ceremony should be dignified, formal and in a suitable setting to underline the seriousness of the commitment by both parties

Please share your views below:

None of these four proposals should be allowed

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there needs to be clarity: the venue needs to be appropriate to the seriousness of the occasion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the location reflects that marriage is a serious event, not to be celebrated in a frivolous manner in a frivolous location

Please share your views below:

General Register Office

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZ8-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:09:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My wife and I were married in the Catholic Church.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it is important for officiants to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage. However, the setting for the ceremony is of no less importance as it inevitably sets the tone of the occasion. For example, I would not consider getting married in an aquarium, in a theme park or on the London Eye a suitably dignified or solemn setting for the contract of marriage. Please therefore can you clarify what you mean by dignified and solemn.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I consider it of paramount importance for both parties to be physically present next to each other at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing a document or marriage schedule is really not the same and should not be permitted. As a public declaration of their union, the couple should be required to at least make minimum phrases or words to confirm that they are free and willing to marry one another. Making up their own words would devalue the solemnity of marriage and there is already a lot of scope for adding personal words. A wedding should not be simply a private affair as it involves not only the couple, but also society which should remain a witness to this.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with this will again devalue the solemnity and dignity of marriage. Marriage ceremonies should be taken seriously. For example, couples dressing up as film characters and using every-day venues such as theme parks, sports centres, pubs or restaurants would be very inappropriate.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could cause a lot of confusion. A ceremony should be clear whether it is religious or non-religious. Any ambiguity or grey areas regarding this would not be good and give the wrong impression to both the couple, witnesses and the public.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open door marriages have been taking place for hundreds of years and help to guard against forced marriages which are still unfortunately a big problem today. It reaffirms that marriage is indeed a public occasion. Removing this requirement would wrongly suggest that marriage can be a purely private matter.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As already mentioned, we need much more clarity please on what constitutes safe and dignified. We need to know what criteria would be used to define how a venue would be safe and dignified. How would they be tested for this?

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZG-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:36:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Married Couple

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NO

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is recognised by law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Wedding was legally binding

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Should not be possible

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

OK

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NO

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment



Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No list

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Religious Organisations should not be expressly excluded

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Only religious organisations should be enabled

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General Register Office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

These should continue

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be allowed

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Do not know

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The proposals will have little effect

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

These costs are irrelevant

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Any such savings would be irrelevant

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No knowledge

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No knowledge

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No impact as the cost of the 'party' overwhelms everything else

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See previous response

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Very little impact

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See previous response

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs except for the 'party' are irrelevant



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBK-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:38:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this will allow too much scope for sham and forced marriages to take place - this legal safeguard is important!

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as both parties are interviewed individually and separately to avoid the possibility of coercion.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

15 days, as with the current legal requirement - this process should not be rushed or done hurriedly.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, I think that the scope for coercion in remote interviews is far too high - all interviews should be done in-person with both parties individually and separately.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

As long as the appropriate legal support for such notice is provided by a relevant authority to back up such notice.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as banns of marriage are provided by a relevant church in another province, I see no reason why they shouldn't be accepted as being valid for Anglican weddings in England & Wales.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current system seems fine to me in such extremely rare circumstances.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, I think that the banns of both parties should be represented by authorisation from the Anglican parishes in which they both live.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think that these are necessary and appropriate legal safeguards against forced or sham marriages, unless these legal requirements are dealt with by the local Civil Registry instead.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think this is a necessary legal safeguard.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

The demands on clergy are already too great and this would enable them to concentrate on the spiritual and ritual aspects of preparing couples for marriage.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, some definition of appropriate organisations is required to avoid spurious or ridiculous applications being made - e.g. for comedy, celebrity, or advertising purposes.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that 20 members is far too low a number for the serious purpose of a group being able to nominate officiants. An organisation needs to be more than a small local group to hold this responsibility.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as long as the definition of 'unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality' allows the freedom of such organisations to hold traditional or different beliefs to those only very recently established as 'public policy' - e.g. same-sex marriage, self-defined gender identity, transgender identity, where a broader understanding of these issues is legally allowed.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would only see this as being appropriate where such individuals have the backing of a properly authorised religious or non-religious organisation, rather than marriage officiants being chosen for their individual preferences as 'private' officiants.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that any 'private' or independent officiants should have strict limits applied to the fees they can charge, as with Churches and Civil Registries, so as to prevent marriage itself from becoming a consumer or money-making venture.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that it is just the officiant who should have this responsibility. I think that clear guidelines and legal requirements about the nature and content of a marriage ceremony, its vows and obligations, should be provided by the Government to ensure that the current legalities and responsibilities of the marriage bond are maintained in all circumstances.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is also why independent officiants should not be allowed - they need proper supervision and monitoring by a responsible authority.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that independent officiants should be appointed at all - this is not only a risky and potentially irresponsible suggestion, but would also require costly monitoring! It would be better to restrict officiants to those appointed by appropriate and responsible organisations.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that officiants should be regularly assessed, trained and re-authorised to maintain the standard of their work.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the public expression of consent is a necessary part of the marriage ceremony which should not be abandoned, nor that of publicly declaring that there are no known impediments to the marriage taking place. These are important safeguards against forced, bigamous, and sham marriages.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that marriage is a legal ceremony with both spiritual & social significance and there should be a limit on what the officiant and couple can choose to personalise their ceremony. The vows and obligations of marriage should be clearly and publicly declared at all ceremonies so that its social role and legal and moral responsibilities are always recognised by all present.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is confusing the social and spiritual elements of marriage - church/religious weddings should contain their appropriate religious content, whereas civil ceremonies should not. If people choose not to have a church/religious ceremony, then they should not expect to be able to include religious content.

Please share your views below:

See above.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private matter - it has social implications that go far beyond the legal contract entered into by couples, which could be done in a private meeting with a lawyer! As a foundational social bond supporting healthy family life today, it requires - as it has always required - the social support which public access provides. Open doors are also a vital additional safeguard against forced or sham marriages taking place, where the wider public have the opportunity to be present and approve/disapprove what is taking place.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a consumer product, and the location of a marriage ceremony will reflect the seriousness in which officiants and couples may present and take the vows, obligations and responsibilities of marriage. To allow ceremonies to take place in inappropriate locations - skydiving, underwater, underground, in a shopping mall/store, etc. - undermines the significance of the event, making it laughable and unworthy. Wedding locations should be vetted by the General Registrar, as at present, to determine whether they are appropriate for this important social ceremony.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

See comments above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access to weddings should remain a legal requirement to safeguard against sham and forced marriages.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples are usually designated for the worship of specific deities / religious purposes, and should not be made available for purposes that go against their foundational beliefs, which non-religious ceremonies would do.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the General Registrar to approve wedding locations, whatever the views of an officiant or couple.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the definition of 'safe' and 'dignified' is so vague as to be almost worthless, and these definitions should not be given to officiants or couples, but retained by the General Registrar who should inspect and approve venues for their appropriateness.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be done by the General Registry Office as its responsibility, and not given to officiants or couples.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be an obligatory pre-approval process, as at present, that is administered solely by the General Registry Office, and not passed down to officiants or couples.

Please share your views below:

The General Registry Office (possibly through its local Registrars) should be solely responsible for pre-approving locations for weddings.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses (and public access to a marriage ceremony) should remain a legal requirement for all marriages to safeguard against sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not requiring cohabitation after a marriage ceremony opens the door to sham weddings / marriages of convenience, and undermines the social significance of marriage itself.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:



No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that this undermines the possibility of fully assessing in-person the free consent of parties - there must be safe ways of doing this in-person so that all parties are protected and so witnesses can be present in-person when a ceremony, to safeguard against sham and forced marriages.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be a legal requirement to gain medical evidence of a claim of terminal illness.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only in the case of serving Royal Navy staff on their vessels by authorised officiants.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Only for Royal Navy staff on their appointed vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The same requirements as for a wedding in the UK should apply.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The pre-approval process for wedding locations should be obligatory not optional.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I think that wedding locations require strict pre-approval of their appropriateness for such a significant legal and social ceremony.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Reasonable fees should be expected by everyone wishing to support marriage as a key component of the health of our society.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3F-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:39:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anything that makes marriage easier or quicker is wrong.

I was married in [REDACTED] we announced our proposed marriage in Church,  
We had to attend Church for 3 weeks to hear our Banns to be read out publicly.  
Couples courted for months before deciding on marriage.  
Act in haste repent at leisure was the order of the day.

Why change a system that worked.

Are all these consultations and changes to what God created marriage to be simply to provide lucrative employment for so many people in Government.  
If there had been a referendum concerning what the people believed how and where marriage should take place , and between who we would not be in the sorry state that we are now in.

Our Government have a lot to answer for, it has been said that even David Cameron has admitted making mistakes concerning same sex marriages.  
.We are hearing a lot concerning child Mental problems are the Government willing to publish the figures regarding the increase of these problems since LGBT became legal and also the impact gender change issues have made ?

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be told of the importance and sanctity of marriage.  
Far to many have married , some just live together have children , within a few years split causing all sorts of problems.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

People need to consider carefully what marriage and commitment really means

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No , Face to Face will make the interview real , greater interaction is possible face to face.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If they want to marry in the UK then they need to be in the UK to give notice.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see no advantage, marriage is personal they are capable of telling everyone who needs to know.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If couples decide to get married after the 12 months they must still be committed to each other

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why complicate things. keep things simple

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I said before keep it simple

Please share your views below:

If the wedding and reception is arranged they would expect the ceremony to go ahead.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Banns should be read in the Church that they are going to be married in

Traditionally marriage was in a Church, I understand that the divorce rate has been far less than those done in public places.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If an Anglican Church is bombed Just go to the next nearest church or Chapel

What ever happened to common sense?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes Why would any other Church be interested?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I believe it is customary for the Clergy to meet with the couple be the Banns are read out in Church.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Why bother if they are intending to get married they will not tell anyone that there is an impediment.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Why waste time or money with 2 preliminaries

Marriage has become like a the throw away commodities and games we buy in the supermarket, when you are tired of them throw them in the bin.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3D-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:43:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

i was married in a church ceremony.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a recognition that where the married couple live is important.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The intention to marry should be made public, not done in a corner. Marriage is the bedrock of society and should be given public recognition as such.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a firm, long-term commitment to marry, with the intention that the marriage should be permanent. Therefore, the notice to marry should be given with plenty of notice, not rushed into in a hurry.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This should be permitted, with the proviso that this should be ratified later if there are any concerns that either one is under pressure or is unfit to declare their own mind.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should be a part of society's recognition that marriage is one of the ways adults should live together.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:



We should keep to the existing ways of publishing banns etc. Marriage is the bedrock of society and should remain so.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be public knowledge, not done in secret or in a corner.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Marriage is important and should be entered into with the intention that it should be for life. Therefore, all safeguards should be taken to preserve the integrity of such an important part of the way we live.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should, because the couple should be required to ensure that everyone knows that their marriage is legal. There should be nothing hidden from society.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican church has an important role to play in our society, and the clergy should be held in high esteem, and able to conduct weddings.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage must be preserved as an important institution of our society, and is a public declaration of their intention to live together for the rest of their lives.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Those who conduct marriage ceremonies should be trained and held in high public esteem.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the official is properly trained.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They will presumably be trained.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there are sufficient safeguards to ensure that the officiants are suitably trained and are upright members of society.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Everyone has the right to subscribe to a non-religious belief system, provided that its marriage ceremony reflects the sacredness and permanence of the institution of marriage.

Please share your views below:

There should be such a list of those organisations which share the belief in the supreme importance of marriage in society, and only those organisations should be allowed to conduct wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a proposal is too vague. Any organisation licensed to conduct wedding ceremonies should have a national structure and its beliefs and ceremonies made public, and show a due deference to the importance of marriage, in particular that it should last for a whole lifetime.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Obviously any wedding ceremony must show due deference to publicly accepted norms of morality and decency. Marriage is a key part of our society and should remain so.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, provided they are properly trained by a recognised procedure.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Everything should be done above board, and nominated officiants must be trained and recognised by a respectable national institution, which promotes the importance of marriage.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This must be on condition that the proposed officiant is in agreement that marriage should be entered into with the intention that such a marriage should be permanent.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants must go through training to ensure that they agree with the ideal of marriage to be a life-long commitment.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As said before, all officiants should show that they agree that marriage is intended to be permanent.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding ceremony should never be made a commercial business, and all officiants should conduct wedding ceremonies without charging a fee for themselves.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only the licence fee should be paid for a wedding ceremony. Officiants should never conduct a wedding ceremony for monetary gain.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise there would be considerable confusion about the nature of the ceremony. and mixed messages about the value of marriage may be received.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a very important institution of our society, and should be upheld at every wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be uniformity on how weddings are to be conducted.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All organisations should be recognised by one body overseeing all the principles needed to marry a couple.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some co-ordinated authority overseeing the way weddings are conducted.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be an overall standard agreed by all parties.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should retire at the age of 70, or if they are deemed no longer fit to conduct wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be professional in al they do.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is no obligation to state that there is no impediment to the marriage some would marry a 2nd or 3rd partner, thus committing bigamy.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be able to marry according to their beliefs, provided the institution of permanent marriage is upheld.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Couples should be allowed to express their views, according to the high value society places on marriage.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples can have a more meaningful religious ceremony after the official one, if they so wish.

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should only be conducted in a right and fitting location.

Please share your views below:

The location should be in a right and seemingly fitting location.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The questions are too unclear for me to make a sensible answer.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must always be dignity.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously; that is common sense.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be uniformity.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too much read tape.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All the usual safeguards should still apply.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties should co-habit after the ceremony as soon as is possible, otherwise the marriage is void after a period of time.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A person's presence at the ceremony is essential.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3M-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:43:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private citizen

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment that should be given the respect and time it deserves

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the present circumstances this would seem sensible so long as a face to face interview takes place prior to permission being granted to proceed.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I refer to my previous answers, Marriage is a huge benefit to society and should be treated as such.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Nothing should take the place of a face to face interview, it is so easy to fake or mislead remotely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Possibly.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would this be publicised?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In an ideal world where nothing goes wrong!

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be publicised more widely.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Again, this seems like a very sensible and needed course of action.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Again, this seems like a very sensible and needed course of action.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is so important to family life and society at large that it should be treated with dignity.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be other circumstances where they are required.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

More understanding is needed of implications.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There has to be a certain size of company involved, 20 seems fair.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is a bit "catch-all" and would need to be clarified.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Possibly.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This must cover all aspects of the wedding ceremony, including tone and location etc

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But capable of adaption to suit individual beliefs and circumstances.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not limited to them.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But with some requirement to keep abreast of legal developements.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a serious commitment, it is not much to ask that a declaration is made publicly that there is liberty to enter into a life-long partnership. There is already a fair degree of flexibility about what can be said, but a minimum requirement should be met.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be so easy for the ceremony and marriage itself to be reduced to a party if there are no mininum requirements. Las-Vegas here we come!

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure I fully understand this question, but if you want a particular form of wedding ceremony why would you then want to deviate from that groups beliefs and practices.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why should a couple not be able to give expression to their beliefs if for some reason they still want a civil ceremony first.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No! This has good and long standing reasons.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some inappropriate settings excluded, marriage is not a joke and shouldn't be treated as such.

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Again there have to be some sensible limits, public access is also important to ensure there is no coercion.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There has been good reasons for this, and now possibly more than ever, public access to these events should not be restricted.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This third point seems counter to logic. Why would anyone with these views want to?

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as they properly assess the suitability and dignity of the venue. A wedding cannot be held just anywhere regardless of surroundings and circumstances.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but some clear guidelines need to be issued.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local registrar?

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure why this is needed?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These systems still seem to be able to be exploited and are rarely watertight.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't feel qualified to answer.



Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't feel qualified to answer.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There has to be a time limit.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course!

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't feel qualified to answer.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There may well be circumstances when this is just not possible, but it shouldn't be the norm.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't feel qualified to answer.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious and time should be made for it.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hasn't this always been the case?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hasn't this always been the case?

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I do not feel qualified to answer this question.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not feel qualified to answer this question.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not feel qualified to answer this question.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not feel qualified to answer this question.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not the least as far as I am aware.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, some time limit is required.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe that your proposals would possibly make it easier for people to get married but at the same time make the act significantly less meaningful.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no information to assist with this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no information to assist with this.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information to assist with this.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have no information to assist with this.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZQ-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:47:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage between men and women only

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You cannot trust the organisation that nominated them to do the right thing

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How ridiculous

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I dont support same sex marriage

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I dont support same sex marriage

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3R-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 13:48:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in a registry office in Manchester

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why the present system of Registrars should not be sufficient for any organisation. Allowing this system to be altered reduces the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The same as question 23

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This country is a Christian country . I have no objection to people having other beliefs, but they have the option of marriage by the registrar.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but, what is meant by the dignity and solemnity of marriage? I think that all of these proposals are trying to destroy the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If each party is allowed to express consent according to their beliefs - gives leave to introduce bigamy and other conditions which are unacceptable. If this is accepted there will be a lot of loopholes.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Gives leave to introduce conditions which are unacceptable. If this is accepted there will be a lot of loopholes and unscrupulous people will take advantage..

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why? People's beliefs can change. This proposal is seriously out of order.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why? Someone uninvited may have some pertinent information to impart.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would seriously undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

No

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the officiant is the Government Registrar

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the officiant is the Government Registrar

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is not enough. It gives leeway to not abide by the rules and probably wouldn't be policed.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reliable security for anything electronic

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand number 4

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to be open to evil intentions and could create loopholes.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A small reduction in the time limit, possibly but, if abolished completely it would make a mockery of marriage.

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZ7-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:00:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Self

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As well as upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage, themselves, the officiant should have the responsibility of ensuring that the content and time of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The proposals should define what constitutes "solemnity" and "dignity".

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married, without being present. This could lead to coercion and forced marriage.

If couples can entirely choose their own words, this could lead to undermining the solemnity of marriage.

Marriage has always been intended as a life long union; if the words are changed, one partner could enter the marriage expecting a life long union, whilst the other has no intention of that. One partner might be deceived by the subtle choice of words proposed by the other. Currently couples have considerable flexibility over what is contained in the marriage ceremony. Couples should continue to be allowed to make these additions, but the prescribed words should not be omitted or replaced. The prescribed words offer safety and security, in that both parties know that they are becoming married in a "standard" arrangement upheld by the British law.

A marriage should continue to be a union of two people, as defined in law.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn legal event. The legality and publicity of the marriage is important to society and protects vulnerable people from being taken advantage of. Couples can celebrate the marriage, either before or after the ceremony, in whatever way appeals to them.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors"/ public access requirement is important in making marriages public. This protects against bigamy and forced marriages. Marriage is not just a contract between two people, it has legal and public ramifications.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious and solemn commitment for life. It is therefore appropriate that it should only be allowed to take place in certain approved venues. outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

A marriage in a hot air balloon or on a boat, could easily be a forced marriage, where one party has no chance of escape until they have signed. I have heard of an unofficial marriage taking place at a comic book convention. This does not give the marriage the solemnity which it deserves.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that someone, not invited, can attend and speak up to protect someone who is being duped or forced into marriage.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be stringent safeguards in place to clarify what constitutes "dignified" and "safe".

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3S-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:00:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am married in the conventional sense

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can think of reasons why this rule could reasonably be modified

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are still a United Kingdom

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This seems a reasonable precaution

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

They should

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

They should

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

(

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A fuller definition of what is understood by dignified and solemn with perhaps examples of what would breach this definition

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties must be present

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some degree of formality to the rules beyond which the couple should not stray

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be some limits e.g. on land rather than in the air or under the sea.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,

Please share your views below:

Should be on land and in a public place

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The public should have access

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple must choose a religious or civil wedding and whichever is chosen the formalities should take place in an appropriate environment

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The officiant should have the right to refuse to conduct a wedding in any place he considers unsuitable or undignified

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the concept of same sex marriage is wrong and should have remained as a civil union. Marriage by definition should remain a partnership between one man and one woman for life.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage must be preceded by a ceremony

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

These might be exceptions to my belief that the ceremony should preferably be in a public place

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Most of the provisional proposals are acceptable and should clarify the present situation

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZV-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:05:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

MY NAME I TREAT AS CONFIDENTIAL. IT IS GIVEN OLNLY FOR THIS RESPONSE.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

NO BARRIERS

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

MARRIAGE IS SOCIALLY IMPORTANT. SO THE LOCAL SOCIETY SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO KNOW ABOUT COMING CEREMONY. IT SHOULD BE AT LEAST 3 MONTHS TO LIVE IN LOCAL SOCIETY BEFORE THE WEDDING CEREMONY.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

3 MONTHS

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

IT SHOULD BE ONLY IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

YES

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NO. IT SHOULD BE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ONLY.  
OFFICIAL ROLE IS IMPORTANT AND SHOULD NOT BE DIMINISH BY ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

YES

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

YES. IT IS CRUCIAL FOR BOTH PARTIES TO EXPRESS THE DECLARATION

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

IN MY OPINION IT WORKS WELL.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENTS

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENTS

Please share your views below:

NO COMMENTS

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

YES IT SHOULD BE EXCLUDED - WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF VIEW THAT MARRIAGE IS ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN ONLY. THIS IS A TRADITIONAL VIEW OF MARRIAGE AND SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS AGAINST THE LAW OR MORALITY IF THE LAW IS CHANGED.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

NO. IT SHOULD BE REAL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE AFFAIRS.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

IT IS NECESSARY TO ADD THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE EXPRESSED DURING WEDDING CEREMONY - IN CONTENT AND TONE - NOT ONLY IN A PRIVATE LIFE OF THE OFFICIANTS.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

BOTH MARRIAGE PARTIES SHOULD BE PRESENT IN-PERSON DURING THE CEREMONY.

THERE SHOULD BE OFFICIAL WORDING FOR MARRIAGE VOW - WITH POSSIBLE ADDING TO IT. LACK OF THE OFFICIAL WORDING WILL DIMINISH A SOLEMNITY AND DIGNITY OF THE MARRIAGE AND THE CEREMONY.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

ALLOWING FOR FLEXIBILITY IT SHOULD BE REQUIRED A MINIMUM FORMALITY WHICH EXPRESSES A SOLEMNITY AND DIGNITY OF MARRIAGE.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

REASONABLE BUT TO THE MINIMUM.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

CEREMONY OF MARRIAGE IS BY NATURE A PUBLIC AND SOCIETY'S EVENT.

THE OPEN DOORS REQUIREMENT WAS INTRODUCED LONG AGO TO PROTECT AGAINST FORCED MARRIAGE, WHICH IS A PROBLEM UNTILL TODAY.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

ONLY IN THE PLACES WHICH MEETS CRITERIA OF DIGNITY AND SOLEMNITY OF THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

Please share your views below:

ONLY IN THE PLACES WHICH MEETS CRITERIA OF DIGNITY AND SOLEMNITY OF THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

IT SHOULD BE DONE LOCALY BY LOCAL COUNCIL.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

COHABITATION IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF MARRIAGE.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

NO

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

NAME OF OFFICIANT SHOULD BE REQUIRED.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

NO COMMENT

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NO COMMENT

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

THE PROVISIONAL PROPOSALS MAKE IT EASIER TO GET MARRIED BUT ALSO DIMMINISH SOLEMNITY AND DIGNITY OF MARRIAGE IN SEVERAL PROPOSITIONS.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NO COMMENTS

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NO COMMENTS

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

NO COMMENTS

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

NO COMMENTS

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NO COMMENTS

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

CHANGES SHOULD HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NO COMMENTS

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NO COMMENTS

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NO COMMENTS

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

NO COMMENTS

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

NO COMMENTS

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZW-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:09:43

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage is not only recognised by law but also involved solemn vows made to each other before God as it is a very serious commitment that we make to each other that will affect our children in a massive way if either of us choose to mock those vows

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is the very least that a couple should be doing to prove their commitment is understood to be both lasting and honest.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See the answer to the previous question

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Longer - please see the answer to the previous question

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

See the answer to the first question

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

See answer to first question - if the couple are serious about their commitment then they will wait and learn that patience is very important in a marriage

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand this proposal

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only as long as the officiant is a qualified and nationally recognised officiant as before.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to the previous question

Please share your views below:

No. There should be a recognised and qualified officiant who should also be taking his/her role very seriously and who will not just 'duck out' on a whim

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple wishing to get married do not believe in God or choose not to have a relationship with God then I don't see why they would need to involve the Church. However, this should not detract from the need for them to understand the seriousness of the step which they are choosing to take

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why change it? If the couple cannot be bothered with the process at this stage then they certainly haven't the stomach for a commitment that should last a lifetime

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

See answer to the previous question

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes and the clergy should be trained in both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Of course they should - these declarations should be made to each other, the qualified marrying person and before witnesses

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

At the risk of repeating myself, this is serious - certainly not a 'quickie' for the fun of it

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this ceremony should be both legal and binding and this should also be made absolutely clear to the couple wishing to enter into a marriage

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Do not understand the relevance of this question

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

How is different to the present setup?

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that there should be specific training for this role

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What kind of non-religious belief organisation would be determined to conduct marriage ceremonies outside of what is already in place: religious or registry office??

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Use a registry office! If you believe in God, make your marriage vows before God; if you don't believe in God, make your marriage vows before man.

Please share your views below:

See the answer to the previous question

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer to the previous question

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I'm seriously not confident that the government is the right body to approach with regards to morality

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this different to present setup?

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, if the couple believe in God they should make their vows to each other before God; if they don't believe in God then they make their vows (which should still be acknowledged as solemn) before a qualified registrar, not any Tom, Dick or (joking aside) Elvis

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I question the need for 'non-religious' groups

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers to this section

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The way that this consultation is pushing, 'marriage for profit' is the next obvious wall to climb. Leave marriage as it is - it has been ruined badly enough without you twisting it beyond any recognition

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If they are doing it for money then they have missed the point of their role already

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand the point here

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage came from God and so why would a secular body be issuing guidance to the Church as to how a marriage ceremony should be conducted?

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, why would a secular body (General Register Office) have power over the church as to how it conducts marriage ceremonies?

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony should remain as it is

### Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony should remain as it is

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony should remain as it is

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I'd have to question what religious content if they have decided on a civil ceremony?

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

### Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZ5-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:09:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need to be resident longer because it is open to abuse.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Person to person interview would be a good idea.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

2 weeks minimum

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Always face to face.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

With legally recognised arrangements with other commonwealth countries etc.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Open to public scrutiny and record.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No. Open to abuse.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Also on internet to make them publicly known.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. More scrutiny required as too much abuse with immigration possible.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, legally binding documentation required.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All wedding services require this scrutiny.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With scrutiny also.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More rigorous regulation required so not open to abuse.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Proper legal position like a registrar, not a made up pseudo religion.

Please share your views below:

Fantasy groups like Star Wars characters and Klingon "religions" should be prohibited.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Have an official wedding with registrar and then a non official wedding with made up officials secondary.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Definitely exclude those which are contrary to public good and morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Can nominate but then be scrutinised by government officials if suitable to hold the post with dignity.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep a public record of all nominees.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Also undertake rigorous screening as well as the organisation that the person is fit and proper.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

And the government registrar.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who sets the standard?

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Reference to God allowed. Lords Prayer.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access needs to be permitted.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In a dignified place.

Please share your views below:

In places associated with recognised venues eg, hotels , country houses etc.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Have to have public accessibility for the purposes of scrutiny. Things hidden away are hidden away for a reason.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Only religious services should take place in religious settings. Not to be used because it is a nice setting.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

On a register of suitable places, and be vetted.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties agree at interview.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some change in arrangements? Like cohabitation or name change, more scrutiny required as for the purpose of the marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need to go through a formal marriage service.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Prison not allowed housebound people not allowed, only dying patients allowed special circumstances.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only dying patients given special consideration.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what advantage this would be.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, not necessary. Prisoners can't get married.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only in emergency situations only.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

None, no demand.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Losing the solemnity and dignity from the wedding service with reduce the respect with which it is held. Weddings should be held in just a few designated venues in addition to religious buildings.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It isn't the cost of a wedding that stops people from doing it. It is the respect that it has in society. If a lot of people don't respect the institution it doesn't matter how cheap you make it or frivolous it is still denuded.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Making it cheaper or easier will have no benefit what so ever.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This is open to so much abuse and nonsense.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There needs to be far more rigorous control on marriage regulation to stop abuse and scam marriages.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3T-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:13:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely people getting married should have their intention to marry published in the area where they individually live in order to give people chance to challenge for example their right to marry

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is vital to prevent forced marriages that people are seen and their identities confirmed using some legal photo id and their desire to marry established and this should be done without anyone else present being able to intimidate the person.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that remote interviews allows use of forged id papers to give permission for the real person to marry without them being the person impersonating them. All interviews must be in person, even if it means that the registrar has to visit the person, should they be infirm etc.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Seems reasonable to continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You can display online, but should also display locally with, in Anglican churches, the bans being read.  
If there is a risk of harm to either of the couple then they should be protected and not displaying online would help.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage would not be able to go ahead if the only officiant was indisposed.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

At the moment if instead of identifying the officiant the eg place of worship is identified, then any of the authorised persons at that place may be involved and we often have one authorised person take the service saying the legal words, and another authorised person filling in the register. This change should allow the substitute to also have a role if it proves helpful.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'd like to know why this change is needed before answering this.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I would think that this is important, though there is little likelihood of a forced marriage in an Anglican church there remains the problem of sham weddings.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

That seems reasonable

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican church is the established church in England and Wales

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it is also important that they agree that marriage is a serious step and is intended to be for life.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some churches may not have an authorised person and a couple wishing to marry there would need someone from the registry office to attend.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is scope for more than one to officiate if there is good reason.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Baptist churches although they have a national organisation are independent and so would lose some of that independence if the national body had to nominate. At present the local church leadership nominate people to the registrar general to obtain authorisation for them. This should continue.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that is a sensible statement.

Please share your views below:

I guess that these days any pub or restaurant or conference centre would like to be able to officiate and despite my concerns about the loss of solemnity in marriages, I can't see why anyone properly instructed in the legal framework should not be able to officiate.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This goes against the approach that you claim to be seeking, that people can get married in line with their wishes. I think that only if the organisation does not agree with marriage and its solemn life-long bond, or is not willing to follow the legal framework and checks required for a legal marriage should that organisation be excluded. You should note that public policy can easily change and so could outlaw mainstream Christian churches who for instance do not perform same-sex marriages, and thing which could easily be thought of as contrary to public policy. The marriages they did perform would nonetheless be legal.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes if they wanted to do so.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What would be required of such individuals to prove that they are responsible and worthy of this responsibility?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That goes without saying!

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

BUT there is no-one confirming that such an individual is fit and proper, so how is that to be worked out?

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a privilege to officiate at a wedding and only a nominal fee should be charged.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If people want to employ an independent officiant then they will hopefully have to be told what that person would charge in advance of booking them. They would also need to arrange an alternative officiant in case anything happened to the first. Independent officiants might allow themselves to conduct sham weddings for the profit it might bring. I am concerned that independent officiants need some oversight.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'd think that there would be potential conflict of interest.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Marriage is for life and for the bringing up of children to be good citizens and so the vows taken and the ceremony must truly reflect the solemnity and dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on whether the General Registry office guidance is itself suitable to produce solemn and dignified wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But should not be the only ones able to request withdrawal of authorisation.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But how will they monitor them?

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is one of the ways of monitoring them.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that each party should declare that there are no legal impediments to them marrying. This is an important public declaration and should not be restricted to a private statement in the preliminaries.

Consent must also be significantly public and not just a written statement, which may have been coerced.

I guess that you mean that organisations should have a standard wording which they advise the GRO that they always use, rather than a wording for each wedding, which would be a bit onerous.

### Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within the GRO's guidelines on what is solemn and dignified.

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Things should continue with the status quo for these groups.

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But how would you say that it can be identified as civil in this circumstance?

Please share your views below:

Prayers, hymns, reading of religious texts

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why if someone wants to proceed in this way they should be prevented from re-stating their vows in a religious way. Also consider that people from time to time like to renew their vows. Once a person is married in a civil ceremony, there is of course no legal benefit in a religious ceremony so why ban that option?

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are public events and people must be allowed to object to a wedding if there are undeclared legal impediments, such a person would not be among the invited guests so the ceremony needs to be open and public. Open doors obviously doesn't mean leaving the doors wide open to let the cold in, just that people have access through the doors, they aren't locked.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a means for members of the public to be present and for instance a wedding taken during a sky dive prevents the public from attending as would holding it on the top of the old man of hoy.

Please share your views below:

The basic premise must be that the public can attend, not just invited guests and so that should be the limiting factor. Can any member of the public attend the ceremony if they wished? So private places, sky diving, or on a plane or on or under inland waters are not suitable places that the public can be expected to have free access to.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is something that belongs to society as a whole, not just to the couple or invited guests. It is not just an agreement between two persons, it has to be acknowledged and respected by society. That is why it should remain accessible to the public. Of course space may prevent some members of the public from entering, but as long as there is the right for them to enter that is what counts.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the venue is happy to have another group use their premises then that should not be a problem. But if one group attempts to impose its views on another by insisting on using their venue, then that should be prevented.

For example many churches would not be happy to have a same-sex wedding taking place in their church building. The owner of the venue should have the right to turn down any request they think would offend their beliefs.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant obviously has the responsibility to fulfil legal constraints and to follow any guidelines on solemnity and dignity, and so must have the right to say no if the location is inappropriate. They should take that responsibility seriously.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

And publicly accessible.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is helpful but what if the officiant chooses not to follow the guidance?

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it will help couples plan their weddings if they know that the venue has been approved and cannot then be overruled by the officiant.

Please share your views below:

The owners or managers of venues should apply to the GRO for approval. They must provide evidence of its provision as a safe and dignified and publicly accessible venue. The owners of the venue should also be required to be fit and proper persons so as to not alter their provisions such that it ceases being safe, dignified or publicly accessible.

## Chapter 8: Registration



Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But obviously where one or other parent is not known, there should be no requirement to add this information. Indeed apart from date and location, the other information should not be mandatory, though it is most helpful if that information is available to people seeking to research ancestry and potentially for probate purposes.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the officiant is able to understand both English and Welsh.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Many locations will not have access to online forms and there is the potential for fraudulent activity or if the database is made public, or is not sufficiently secure against hacking, that people may use it to locate and harm people as considered in an earlier question. "Honour" killings are still unfortunately with us.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the marriage records are correct, any error in the issued marriage certificate should not invalidate the marriage, since a corrected certificate can be issued.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I thought that was the case already, that cohabitation is not sufficient to be considered a marriage. Such common-law marriages aren't legally marriages.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does this mean that nullity can at any time be petitioned if there was not originally consent by both parties? If so then I agree. This would allow forced marriages to be annulled. If it means that it is not possible to petition at all then I disagree.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should not take place remotely without witnesses seeing the signatures of the couple. All signatures should be on the same piece of paper. Nor should the public be excluded. The extension till after a national emergency is helpful. The preliminaries must take place in such a way that both parties are positively identified and no fraud may take place, I would not think that current online meeting software is adequate to achieve this.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public accessibility.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public accessibility

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage on board a vessel are not publicly accessible enough

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

My personal opinion is that in general it will have no effect on the number of couples getting married but it may result in couples being married in different venues and less church weddings.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD36-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:32:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Retired

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Or I agree the seven days should be abolished if it was increased

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It adds to the commitment of getting married rather than a flippant regard to it,

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

More: Plenty of time to ensure the commitment is serious.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

What does this gobbledegook mean?

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too much use is made of on-line identification for harassment. Reading the banns in a church or notice in newspaper as currently done is sufficient.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand the question.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule should be fixed and not subject to change at people's will.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Can't help dying or being ill!

Please share your views below:

What other circumstances? Not explained.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should only authorise a wedding in the country in which it is to be performed.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What are the rules?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. It ensures that the marriage is taken seriously as defined in the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This ensures that marriages are taken seriously

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, otherwise it is just "jumping the broomstick".

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Vague question. The registrar is always at an Anglican wedding for the certificate signing which should be the same for all weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely one is enough!

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it has to be just that otherwise anybody could be appointed.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. If people don't want to adhere to that then provisions are available in setting up a legal contract between them. A marriage whether religious or not should be taken seriously. If couples don't want to do that then they don't have to, they can still live together with the protection of the law. There is no need to demean marriage for those couples who want the marriage service and commitment to remain serious.

Please share your views below:

No. The Church or register office is sufficient.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No. People should be able to get "married" how they want. The government should not have a role in dictating how the ceremony is carried out and should not interfere with the order of any church service, but they should ensure that any organisation that conducts wedding ceremonies are fit and proper. What is required is the protection of the law that defines marriage however entered into. ie. It is done with forethought and is permanent and can only be dissolved through a divorce (after a period of time) when either party has breached the marriage contract. If couples do not want this, then do not get married and just live together with a legal contract.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You can't be a vicar and perform a civil ceremony. It is a contradiction of terms.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is up to religion or beliefs of people how they want to get married. It is the law of the country that should protect to the commitment to marriage.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems contradictory. Even if they declare no impediment during the preliminaries it may come up at the "eleventh" hour.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Should be able to wear religious dress or adornments.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why interfere with this? It is common to have a "marriage blessing". What is this to do with government?

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This prevents any unruly behaviour by uninvited guests.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Well, as long as the registrar is in attendance and they don't mind!

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If couples want a civil wedding do it in a civil establishment. If they want a religious wedding do it in the Church. You should not be able to mix and match. I can't see a vicar marrying someone in the pub.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some people are just stupid, but if the registrar refuses to attend at an inappropriate venue the wedding will not take place.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this is subjective. The officiant may agree that an underwater venue is safe and dignified.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Pre-approval? That should be predefined.

Please share your views below:

It should be predefined so the officiant can't change it on a whim.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. This is know as "The Marriage Certificate". Anything without this information may not be accepted in other countries as proof of marriage.

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Like it or not English is the official language of the UK. Put Welsh in by all means, but it must also be in English.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided this doesn't replace the paper certificate.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Procedures should not be broken or bypassed. Rules are rules or why have them?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Presumption should not override the fact they are not married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the marriage is null it was so at the beginning. How can you get married if you didn't consent?

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problems with people getting married. This safeguards their inheritance according to the law.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, providing it is done speedily. Unless you've only a few hours left.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand the question. If you mean abolish the "Marriage Certificate" i don't agree.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The emergency should be clearly defined and not subject to the officiant's whim. Sometimes couples through no fault of their own may be detained (as a hostage, say) who need to marry for inheritance purposes should be able to marry remotely.

No

Please expand on your answer:

All couples? No, exceptional circumstances.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties should be compos mentis.

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What? Walking on water? No problems with a civil ceremony on a ship, but a surfboard?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

If it's a civil ceremony it's up to the registrar if he/she wants to go down in a submarine!

If it's a legal civil ceremony it's legal. Religious ceremonies don't pander to these odd locations.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant should be mandatory.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I would doubt it.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Define reasonable.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Can't help being terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's worked well so far, so why change it?

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Getting married should be viewed as a serious commitment. To financial security, moral behaviour and care of children. Despite the change in attitudes it is women who have children and depend on men to support them in this. We see single mothers suffering alone. That is what the word "married" means. If couples don't agree with this then they don't have to get married. They can live together without any commitment if they so desire and take out contracts for financial security.

Being "married" means that a breach of contract should be the only way a marriage can end and after a period of reflection, not anyone just walking

away.

If marriage was defined as that I believe more people would get married. If it is easy for a marriage to end or there is no benefit to be married why would people do it?

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unfortunately formal marriages have become a social event with venues exploiting everything they can making weddings, especially receptions, expensive.

The expense of authorised religious or civil ceremonies should be fixed at cost countrywide, but if it is at an unauthorised location that is up to the participants.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZX-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:36:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

no it should not be possible for this to happen because of sham marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZP-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:43:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is recognised by law of land and Church.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important for at least one of a couple to have a permanent address in the district.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Application should be in person

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

at least three weeks

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

personal interview essential

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

no opinion

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no fixed opinion

### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Goes without saying - provided the substitute is a recognised officiant

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I fail to understand why the present system needs alteration

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Or in the parish church of each of the couple, as at present.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree with both the above points

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Either is acceptable

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

On the understanding that a Church of England priest is automatically a registration officer.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be such a list, including, e.g. organisations that are primarily political in nature, or whose raison d'etre is to campaign for or support some specific purpose, e.g. National Trust, RSPB, NSPCC.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Number irrelevant, and some "sincerely held beliefs" may not be generally acceptable.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

And what if the organisation maintains that "public policy or morality" and in some cases even the law of the land are wrong? [As has often happened and is still happening in many countries]

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Officiants must be so ex officio; individual identity is irrelevant.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Irrelevant, if officiants are ex officio

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no independent officiants, since that would be to open the gates to self-appointed officiants who are unsuitable. The 'training' could not prevent this.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

OK except for 1b, whose declaration should remain

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage concerns the public, is not merely a private contract between the man and woman concerned.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

free for all!

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

undignified ceremonies likely - and no 'privacy' for weddings is essential

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

weddings are not private events

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

not their responsibility

No

Please expand on your answer:

not necessary (see above)

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

not competent to answer



Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

none

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

no great demand that I know of

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

no idea!

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZ6-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:44:16

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Individual with no organisation represented.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was officially married on 23rd April 2003 and have a marriage certificate to prove it.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

1 month.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, because there are outside influences affecting a truthful answer, which cannot be detected remotely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should continue as it is.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An information available online is subject to abuse.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is part of the Church's law.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Church only.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It is important that documentary evidence and meeting in person is important for Clergy to meet the couple.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both have to make that declaration.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Very important.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that this should also be in a church setting without restrictions on what is said in the ceremony, regarding religious belief and chosen songs/hymns.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither agree or disagree

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It should not exclude religious organisations.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Neither agree or disagree.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neither agree or disagree.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the LEGAL ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there any issues than a converse to their duty as officiant then these issues should be investigated.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should NOT be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. A signature is not enough. Public declarations are considered foundational to a legal wedding ceremony. This undermines the solemnity of marriage and the commitment taken. A wedding is a union between a couple. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, almost like a hobby. Marriage is serious and should NOT be taken lightly.

Consultation Question 43:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious and committing. Trivialising marriage with themes doesn't reflect how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be up to the church to decide on those rules.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If those getting married wish to have a religious content, then that should be the case.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a matter of choice. A church blessing is often followed by a civil ceremony but not compulsory.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a historical requirement as a protection against forced marriages and should be kept.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious matter and not entered into lightly. There should be appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. By holding a marriage just anywhere undermines the solemnity of such an undertaking and trivialises the institution of marriage.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

This would be contrary to the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should have public access, otherwise it's would be encouraging illegal marriages.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with non religious weddings taking place in a church setting, against the beliefs of its members. I do think that religious content could be applied to civil marriage, should the couple request it.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who decides if a venue is dignified and safe? There should be guidance and stringent safeguards in place in order to clarify what is safe and dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should be approved by law and applied throughout the UK.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/A

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/A

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJ9-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 14:52:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Dignity' and 'solemnity' are quite vague and could be misinterpreted and therefore require more clarification as to what is meant specifically by these 2 words for officiant and the actual ceremony.



Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think the prescribed words should change as this is a legal contract and it's very important to confirm that both parties are marrying of their own free will.

To not even have to be at the wedding in person and still be able to get married is a ludicrous idea and open to much abuse of the whole procedure.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I see opportunity for too much levity. This is an official and legal ceremony and should be treated as such.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony should always be public to prevent individuals secretly marrying multiple people, and to safeguard against coercion.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clarity needs to be given to the phrase 'dignified and safe' as if left ambiguous as currently proposed then a complete mockery could be made of this legal ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clarity needs to be given to the phrase 'dignified and safe' as if left ambiguous as currently proposed then a complete mockery could be made of this legal ceremony.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZM-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 15:01:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No need for confidentiality

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is recognised

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So many couples live and work apart at present.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Fourteen days

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be in person.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This looks reasonable.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not just on line. They should also be publicly displayed in print format. Not everyone is online.

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure about my response to this.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This looks reasonable.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure about this.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This looks reasonable, although there might be times when 2 is impossible and an alternative person should meet with one party.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I am unsure about this.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too open ended.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is confusing.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My sister and her husband had a civil ceremony to please themselves and a religious ceremony after to please the family. It worked.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some folk may decide on an unsuitable venue.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Marriage in private homes or hospitals should only take place if one person is unable to be anywhere else.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only in special circumstances. Otherwise it should be public.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What on earth is a 'dignified' location? Is a beach dignified? Is a cave dignified? Is an aeroplane dignified? You might as well use 'appropriate' Are you trying to rule out nightclubs and fun fairs?

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As well as, not instead of...

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJV-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 15:09:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Email:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

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### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am happy that officiants should be responsible for the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. But this question does not go far enough.

How does the Law Commission define 'dignity' and 'solemnity'? How will they convey this definition to officiants, and legislate for its parameters?

At the very least the officiants should have guidelines on the location and content of the ceremony that will promote dignity and solemnity rather than detract from them.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal waters down the dignity and solemnity too far. Marriage is not simply an agreement between two people. It is a public declaration to society that is then legally respected, privileged and protected. And it is a lifelong commitment, which may need the support of society to be honoured.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is far too 'private'. Marriage is a public declaration in which wider society and the state have a stake. There should continue to be a basic core to the ceremony required by legislation.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This continues the mistaken and dangerous fallacy that marriage is a purely private matter. The original requirement for open doors was to protect against forced marriages. This remains a concern within some social groups.

But more generally marriage should be seen to be to a public declaration of a lifelong commitment, which may well need support and protection beyond what the couple themselves and the officiant can provide.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is an abrogation of responsibility.

The government should continue to exercise discrimination on what locations are, or are not, dignified and safe.

Location of a wedding has a big bearing on whether it is seen as dignified and solemn.

Please share your views below:

None of these venues is automatically disqualified, though it would be important to guard against danger and sheer novelty value on inland waters or in the air.

The Law Commission, or suitable delegated body, needs to work hard on definitions and parameters of what is 'safe' and, especially, 'dignified' - what will uphold and promote the dignity and solemnity of marriage. This is far too important to be left to the officiant alone.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



As in question 48, this is far too important to be left to the officiant's judgment alone. There need to be thorough, consulted and agreed guidelines on what 'safe' and 'dignified' mean and require.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

By all means the General Register Office can be custodian and applier of agreed guidelines. But a more authoritative and consultative body should first work on how locations are to be assessed for safety and dignity.

Marriage is a fundamentally precious and serious relationship. This whole set of proposals has the feel of treating it too lightly.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZ1-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 15:28:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private Individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that 30 days should be the minimum residential time .

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest 14 days

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person interviews are totally essential to avoid the numerous sham marriages taking place at the moment.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should be allowed to continue

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The substitute official may be part of the fake wedding scam

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, too open to abuse.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a time honoured liturgy in the Anglican Church which places God in his rightful place as the Author and Designer of Marriage ,that needs to be honoured .

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That's silly ,Churches have,nt been war damaged since 1945 ,the requirements should be if it is still active as a place of Christian Worship.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes ,and on line.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should. both need to be present to prove identities.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes ,reasons as above.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

In Gods economy so called " civil preliminaries" are a farce .

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legality is paramount in Marriage ,God takes our vows seriously and so should we.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Two required to ensure no falsification is involved, this may not have been necessary in the past but is now I believe.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For part 1 the Church should nominate the Officials.

For part 2 the legal standing of the Officials needs to be clarified ,and if lacking in detail to be replaced by a Church Official.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A total atheist mish mash of half baked rubbish ,where is Love,Honour and life long commitment .

God had the Marriage idea first ,anything else is a poor second best to be avoided.

Please share your views below:

Only Christian organisations should be listed ,why settle for less.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Worship of what?

This is much too vague , what would be the basis of a " sincere belief in Marriage " only the Christian Church has a suitable framework for a Marriage Service ,a Humanist funeral service has no hope in it ,only sorrow ,I assume an atheist marriage would lack the joy that's comes with Gods Word.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

What is public policy today can be a hanging matter tomorrow ,i e so called same sex marriage .an abomination in any age.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Christian Organisations Yes , non religious No ,what is a non religious office ? How and on what basis are they appointed?

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See no27

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please define " fit and proper ". The question is a vague as a politicians answer,

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Well ,that helps with question30

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A fixed price list is required.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A fixed. Price would be essential to avoid " Rip off s"

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see a scam in the offing regardless.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please tell how people who don't believe in Gods word the Bible are going to do this !

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An "Ombudsman " over site is required to rule on disputes other than the C of E where there is clear instruction in the Marriage Service which has been performed Millions of times.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See comments in question 37

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What if they agree to be married on a fun fair Big Wheel ?

More Gravitas and Dignity please .

Who wrote these questions ? The Mad Hatter

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please note on Anglican and Jewish Weddings ,rules already exist.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Civil Ceremonies already steal parts of the Christian Wedding Service.

Christians do not charge for this ,

Please share your views below:

As they have presumably rejected Christianity ,why include it at all ,?  
Christians don't include Atheist content .

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why pander to non religious people .

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Rubbish, have some respect , it should reflect the Solemnity and Commitment that Marriage entails.

Please share your views below:

A respectful area ,preferably a suitable building which could be a home ,outdoors ,I would say no ,too many crackpots about ,people get drowned in water and airplanes pollute .

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? Is it something to be hidden ,quite possibly ,why have a coach and horses ridden through tradition,

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- 1 Let Atheists build there own wedding venues
- 2 Let Christians be married in a non religious building ie a Hotel ,if no Church is available
- 3Why would they want to??

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No marriages in a Fun Fare ,it's a serious business

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Quantify Safe ,Qualify Dignified

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please note ,you get idiots in all sorts of places including Register Offices ,a list of suitable places needs to be supplied also.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Both Parents need to be involved with the. Couple and official ,and may the best man win

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hackers !!!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But same sex marriages are offensive to God ,and not recognised by him.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Same sex marriages are not recognised by God and invalid.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is cohabiting and must be mandatory.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage requires a Marriage Service ,cohabiting is not marriage.



Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Save the marriage if at all possible ,don't give a reason to end it.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is Sacred ,not to be trifled with.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No weddings in prison ,why allow law breakers to have special treatment.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If it's not broke ,why try to fix it ,leave it alone.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who says they won't be cured ,24 months minimum.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

24 months

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it on dry land ,what happens if they sail into non territorial waters during the Service ?

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No ,sea sickness has a funny effect on some people.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No ,a thousand times no.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See other answers

No

Please expand on your answer:

I oppose marriage at sea.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Their should,nt be any requirement unless they are unwell.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Every effort should be made to get people married ,the Country is over run by co habiters who break up more than married couples do ,marriage is much better for the upbringing of children,

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriage is cheap at the price ,Marrying my wife was a priceless blessing to me.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No Comment

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Basically just leave things basically alone

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJ7-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 15:34:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I have concerns about remote interviews and am not convinced that the above proposal provides adequate safeguards against sham or forced marriages.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should continue to be possible.

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Probably not but individual circumstances should be considered on their own merits.

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Publish in the church where the wedding is to take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

There should be exclusion of organisations which promote purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be recognised scale of fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is too vague as it does provide adequate safeguard against a form of ceremony which undermines the dignity and seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It seems pointless to include a religious content if the participants have chosen a civil non-religious wedding.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors help provide a safeguard against sham or forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal opens up the possibility of weddings taking place in totally inappropriate locations which would be a travesty. It risks making a mockery of the serious step which the couple are taking in their commitment to each other marriage and could undermine the importance of marriage.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

There should be a limit to prevent the use of unsuitable inappropriate venues.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be the sole responsibility of the officiant as suitability could be interpreted too liberally by one individual or the officiant could be pressured into allowing an unsuitable location. Official guidelines are required.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Remote ceremonies should not be allowed as they would undermine the importance of marriage by devaluing the ceremony. In effect someone could get married without attending his or her own wedding.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJT-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 16:09:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Rushing into marriage would not be good for long lasting meaningful relationships. Las Vegas is notorious for quickie marriages ending shortly afterwards with quickie divorces

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All people to have an in person interview. Ensures that marriages of convenience or immigration purposes or arranged marriages are less likely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No. Same reasons as question 7

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes except in exceptional circumstances



Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes should make declaration

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The Anglican or other denomination wedding service

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Only outdoors or in buildings recognised and authorised for weddings to ensure that people realise that marriage is a serious institution and not just a frivolous day out

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Needs to be legally recognised venues as certified by local authorising body

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not for officiant to decide

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only pre approved places for weddings

Please share your views below:

Local authority, registrars office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

They should be able to have a wedding as quickly as possible I. Hospital ward if appropriate. There should be an exemption of all timing requirements

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Speed is of the essence

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not on ships at all

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No not needed

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No. I think the government bodies need to enforce the sanctity of marriage in all cases. I feel at present marriage is not seen as a life long commitment and in all legislation this must be promoted and discussed.

I would hope that any future government legislation takes account of this as the aim of Marriage and that marriage is the best way forward for all family life and as the Anglican marriage service states should not be undertaken lightly. Some of the proposals within the consultation seem frivolous and would detract from the seriousness of the commitment.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs are not exorbitant and should be covered as local authorities cannot carry these costs

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Waiting to undertake such a serious commitment should not be a problem

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Leave things as they are now

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJN-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 16:27:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is an important safeguard.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews should be required if concerns are raised about anything.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as existing methods are maintained.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No; they be made more public than that.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes,, it would be a good idea for any celebrant to meet the couple together and separately.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

I have no idea what types though!

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Not sure what you are getting at here.

My church (a small independent Evangelical church) would not allow a same-sex marriage to take place in it's building.

Indeed, we would very rarely allow the building to be used for weddings of couples who were not members.

Because of the former, would we therefore be prevented from holding the latter?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know - that seems to be rather bureaucratic!

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But see answer to Question 28.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Those limitations seem to me to be too prescriptive.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proposal, but I think that it does not go far enough.

Officiants should also have a responsibility to make sure that the content and tone of the ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage (although dignity and solemnity need to be more fully defined).

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely, it should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony! Simply signing a marriage schedule is totally inadequate.

Allowing couples to say anything they like or nothing at all would be a major departure from the public declarations that, up until now, have always been considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony, and risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

There is a large amount of flexibility in the current wedding ceremony. This is because the prescribed words are minimal and couples can (and do!) add to them in many ways.

So, it is not very much to ask that a few specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

I think that the idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple because they are entering into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So both society in general and the law have an interest in the making of public declarations.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony is both a serious and solemn event; although , hopefully, also a happy one!

A particular type of ceremony should not be allowed simply because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. So, the idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony also comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public

declaration in which both society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why repeal that provision?

Some couples may prefer to have a civil wedding followed by e.g. a service of "marriage blessing"; why should that not be permitted?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I remain strongly of the view that weddings and burials/cremations should be the only two things that we do that need witnesses!

The existing "open doors" requirement helps convey the very public nature of wedding declarations and should remain as a strong protection against forced marriages that, sadly, are still a problem in our society.

Removing this requirement encourages the false perception that weddings (and marriage per se) are private matters without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To repeat: a marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn event, so venues should not be allowed simply because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such an important ceremony.

I accept that there are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example for churches who do not own their own building), but this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

I would accept that weddings can be conducted in outdoor settings - indeed my brother got married in a field! His church does not own a building.

However, allowing ceremonies to take place "in the air" strikes me as meaning the safe and dignified test doesn't seem too hard to meet!

I am aware that some "unofficial" wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

But only because there is a lack of clarity in how venues would be inspected/tested for “dignity” and “safety”.  
The terms need to be stringent and more clearly defined; and safeguards should be proposed.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local Council Registration Services.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage without post-celebration cohabitation looks like a sham marriage to me!

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation does not make a marriage!

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but the period should be made shorter - possibly as little as a year.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No; leave as is!

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but time is sometimes of an essence in such sad circumstances.  
Could this service be guaranteed?

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



1: Yes

2, 3 and 4: No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why give all the information, but not the name of the officiant?

Surely, it is usually the captain of the vessel? I doubt if their name wasn't known!

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Don't know.
2. I would hope so!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJ5-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 16:28:26

### About you

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage recognised by law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable to me

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A to me

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this provision is one of the mechanisms that drives home the seriousness of the step they are about to take. It also helps them work together and demonstrate their commitment to each other at a crucial time. It also ensures people show commitment to their local area and the established institutions.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does "any registration district" mean even if the couple don't have a tie to it? If the answer is 'yes', then I disagree.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It shouldn't matter

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This is acceptable but should not be mandatory. Clergies should have the power to request such evidence if they have concerns that one of the parties getting married is at risk of forced/sham marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The idea of independent officiants is a very bad one that waters down the significance and solemnity of the marriage institution.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with the notion of "independent officiants" in its entirety.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this proposal does not go far enough. Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, which suggests they are easy standards to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In my view, it should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

This proposal risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

It is noteworthy that already, there is a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.

The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, just like a personal hobby. This will significantly water down its worth.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter e.t.c It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should



be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The “open doors” requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations. The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am of the view that venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building). However, caution and safeguards must be in place not to legitimise inappropriate settings.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Weddings are as important as the marriage that the wedding initiates. I am of the view that weddings go beyond the individuals pledging their lifetime commitment to each other. Hence, it is a solemn event that confers a significant sense of responsibility on the individuals. Hence, it must not be taken with levity. This proposal opens the door to all sorts of (mis)interpretations that makes it possible for people to be able to conduct weddings in (no disrespect to the brand) McDonalds! That makes mockery of the institution.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue owners and in some instances, the couple should take this responsibility.  
It appears that there is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

No

Please expand on your answer:

While the proposal calls for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I can understand terminally ill people and people that are housebound getting married. However, I don't think a person who is detained in a hospital (the keyword being 'detained') has the capacity to consent to a wedding in the first place. The focus rather should be on their treatment and getting out of detention in a condition where they are capable of making rational decisions. For a person detained in prison, it is my view that prison is meant to place a limitation on the individual for offences committed. Ability of a prisoner to get married while in detention is mockery of the corrective service system. If they are able to do most of the things that they would do outside of prison (including getting married), then they might as well never been imprisoned in the first place.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule should not have been issued at all

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBN-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 17:03:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not generally want my personal information in the public sphere.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in a church.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With a poviso that at least one of the couple are resident.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This modernises the process and makes it easier to communicate.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A week should help to avoid spur of the moment decisions and give time for reflection before a major committment.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

As attractive as is this proposal from an administrative point of view, a face to face meeting is far better when trying to verify circumstances.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice should still be possible outside England and Wales given the exceptions mentioned.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Using modern means of communication makes things easier and makes the reason for publishing easier to accomplish.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Church preliminaries offer a simple and trusted method.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a serious commitment and the officiant contributes to this.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be trusted more than most to understand this ceremony.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If officiants are not recognised Church ministers then an officially appointed person should be nominated, to avoid farcical situations arising that would detract and devalue the ceremony.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only officiants recognised by the church or state should be allowed.

Please share your views below:

Departing from appointing a church or state officiant opens up all sorts of problems, avoid creating unnecessary procedures that would detract from marriage.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Same as previous.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above, General Register Office regulation adds to the meaning of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it is controlled by General Register Office.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as they are officially approved by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

s they are approved by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Profit making could degenerate the process.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Control and set fees by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obvious.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To make sure the ceremony maintains standards.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

General Register Office should be responsible for maintaining official standards.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever is necessary.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Maintain standards.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a recognised and formally approved ceremony. Anything contrived by individuals can take away from the dignity and solemnity of marriage with the possibility of descending to farce.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

With the proviso that the official form and words of the ceremony should be approved by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be a public commitment to marriage and since the latter is a major foundation of society should be open to the public.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of marriage require the ceremony only to take place wherever approved by General Register Office.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

As said above, the marriage ceremony should provide solemnity and dignity and the locations mentioned would not add to that.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be public.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Locations should be approved by the General Register Office and should reflect the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

General Register Office should approve all venues.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obvious.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To preserve standards.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This adds to the dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Preserve the form of marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a public ceremony with open consent from both parties and witnessed as such.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Breaking any of these goes against the basic requirements of marriage.

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a formal public ceremony.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obvious.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such venues do not afford open and public marriage.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such venues do not assign the dignity and solemnity required.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, such venues do not provide the dignity and solemnity required.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Against these sort of marriages for reasons stated above.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, disagree with these type of weddings for reasons given above.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If allowed at all completely agree.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Labourer is worthy of his hire.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There is a move by certain parties to make marriage fast and disposable, taking away the dignity and solemnity required.

There is a purpose behind tried and tested procedures for marriage that help major decisions to commitment. By taking these away the institution of marriage is inevitably harmed.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJU-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 17:20:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a priest in the Church of England, I have seen several weddings postponed, which has been sad, and others which have gone ahead with several readjustments as government requirements have constantly changed.

In my experience, those weddings which went ahead, often with very small numbers, were nevertheless special and greatly appreciated : and in some ways offered more chance to focus on the essentials of the marriage.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure of implications

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Why ? Where? For how long?

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Seems a long time....

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Probably not - certainly not without safeguards in place to ensure that the officiant is a suitable person, who will uphold the dignity and seriousness of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, because the couple are often no longer local and therefore known to that community. If banns are to continue at all, it would seem to make sense only where the prospective bride and groom are known.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Someone needs to check documentary evidence; not necessarily the clergy.

No need to meet them separately unless there seems to be a particular reason; usually I would see them together.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Probably yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What exactly do you mean by preliminaries ?

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There need to be some safeguards in light of increasing desire to customise weddings....

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This could become increasingly tendentious - so many grey areas, risking the definition of marriage becoming indistinct ??

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See above. This evidently has wider social implications, not merely religious or personal ones.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

In an ever-changing society where all boundaries seem to be being pushed, is there a danger of more conservative views or organisations being penalised ?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definition ?? Appears to include only legal aspects ?

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Value of having some basic guidelines.... ?

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is VITAL !! And should form part of any preparation / preliminaries.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Probably the only practical answer, but may need interventions from higher up if any issues detected.....

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If it is a case of keeping up with changing requirements, certainly; but the whole CPD philosophy can be over the top and often unnecessary

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should continue to be a public ceremony with personal consent given during it: otherwise it opens the door to all kinds of fudge and confusion.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are certain non-negotiable basics in terms of understanding, consent and commitment which should form the basis of the service. Speaking as a priest, it is hugely demanding to have to negotiate a host of other requirements, and puts an impossible and inappropriate pressure on an officiant to have to make judgments as to what is appropriate. the couple can always add other things into their reception !

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not individual parishes - leads to unhelpful comparison and pick-and-mix; if the Anglican church nationally, then this amounts to 'special rules' ?

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly.

Please share your views below:

Short prayers, for God's help and blessing...

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Service of blessing to be allowed.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This has always been a safeguard against forced marriage.... It should continue to be a public ceremony for reasons stated above.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could make it impossible to maintain the dignity and solemnity required.

Please share your views below:

It should be able to be public, dignified and practical...

This isn't just about the couple: it's an institution which forms part of the bedrock of society - ideally, and that's what we should seek to enable.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is unreasonable and could set one officiant against another, or couples hunting for one who would be more malleable.....

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With guidelines !

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be very clear or we will have the situation above.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This is all getting unfeasibly complicated; why not stick with the current practice of approving venues first - there can be a wide range, but again, this is veering away from the focus on the marriage itself - which should be clear and basically standard - and the freedom to celebrate afterwards in a whole range of ways.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not convinced about the necessity for parents' occupations... or even parents, given that identities will have been checked.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Probably yes

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with 1 above.

Then NO. See previous reply. Should be in person .

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Why ? See above re approved venues.

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Never had this raised.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cost can be an issue, but the cost of the marriage itself need not be that great, and is often peanuts in comparison with the amount spent on the reception !

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I suspect this may not encourage more weddings, but it could greatly complicate things for officiants and weaken the focus on the core elements.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZB-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 17:46:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private escapade. All sorts of problems could arise more easily from abolishing this requirement, including that of forced marriages, marriages where full competence is dubious, and under-age marriages.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement to attend in person is vital and should be insisted upon from the outset.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

There will be cases when further checks will seem necessary. These take time.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Such interviews will be very popular among those who have something to hide. Those approaching marriage with any degree of seriousness and commitment will hardly object to being interviewed in person about this important step in their lives.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice must surely be given by the party who is resident in England and Wales in order to carry full weight. Otherwise, the conventional 'slippery slope' argument comes into force. If neither party is resident in England or Wales, the marriage should not be permitted here.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I presume that it is acknowledged that online display alone will not be sufficient.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why Roman Catholic clergymen and others in Orders in bona fide Christian denominations should not be recognised as officiants by virtue of the ordination.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a definition would include many dubious organisations.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be far more practical to designate the approved religious organisations in addition to the Established Church which would be enabled. In all other case, the legally appointed registrar would have to carry out his or her duty.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Most definitely this should happen.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Not a good idea - too open to irregularity.

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will be totally unnecessary unless the gates are opened to dubious organisations. This is why it is necessary to keep to the Established Church and other bona fide churches such as Catholics, Methodists and Baptists.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely no explanation is needed of this, since this very consultation implies that marriage should be upheld with dignity and solemnity, even though many of the question suggest that consideration is being given to undermine these .

Consultation Question 36:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Unfortunately, because of the way in which certain organisations seek to undermine the value and seriousness of marriage, this has become necessary.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this will be extremely rare if the floodgates are not opened to the authorisation of non-religious groups or groups of dubious religious affiliation.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These proposals undermine the very nature of marriage, that of a public commitment. If people wish to engage in the type of activities described above, including failing to give consent orally when able to do so, or not being obliged to deny any impediment to marriage, then an entirely different type of procedure would be fine, as long as it is not regarded as marriage or a wedding service.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The mere suggestion makes clear that the participants would be entitled to choose a form and ceremony which is not marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Of course they should be permitted to impose their own requirements, but to have the marriage recognised in law they should be obliged to conform to the standard requirement.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current position is very unreasonable, given the public nature of marriage.

Please share your views below:

There is no reason why prayers should not be permitted, why hymns or other sacred songs should not be sung, or why a blessing could not be given by a clergyman. There are many reasons why a couple cannot marry in a church and they deserve some choice in these matters.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public ceremony for a number of good reasons; not least among these are the interest in the state is the value of marriage and the protection of victims of forced marriages or marriages when full competence cannot be given. It is foolish to ignore the fact that that these considerations exist in our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The way in which such permission would lead to ridiculous attempts by people to outdo each other is obvious. One has only to consider accounts of unauthorised weddings to see where this suggestion might lead.

outdoors,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

None of these places are suitable for a dignified, solemn and public ceremony, although with the imposition of very strict rules, the outdoors, private homes and such places at hospitals could be practical in certain limited circumstances.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This clearly undermines the public nature of marriage.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Locations should be designated officially, and not by the whim of individuals.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This need not arise, of course, if proper consideration is given to the official designation of locations.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will not be necessary is if locations are properly and officially designated.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will not be necessary is if locations are properly and officially designated.

Please share your views below:

This will not be necessary is if locations are properly and officially designated.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Since the parties and registrar must be physically present at the ceremony, this proposal seems pointless, as well as open to deceit.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Points 2 and 3 above seem to be the very points that should make a marriage void, given that marriage is a legal and public commitment. As for Point 1, certain mistakes, such as a totally incorrect name or the wrong date, should also render the marriage void. I can think of no other legal document where such strange proposals as those above would be considered acceptable, unless the purpose of the proposal is to completely undermine marriage.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is self-evident that all points would invalidate a marriage.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal seems merely to muddy the waters. If a couple do not intend to cohabit or to consummate the marriage, then their proposed marriage is a sham. This proposal needs to be completely reworded to make more sense.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not aware that any such presumption exists as far as the law on marriage is concerned. However, if people like to make such a presumption, surely the law should not interfere? This proposal also needs to be completely reworded to make more sense.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If lack of consent can be proved, no matter how much time has elapsed, the marriage should be deemed invalid at law.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Self-explanatory.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is particularly important in view of issues concerning consent, and the feasibility of making the exceptions to the standard notions of consummation and cohabitation.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Exceptional cases require exceptional means.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would open the floodgates to hasty decisions and would lead to the diminished respect for marriage that seems to be the aim of many of these proposals.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless the intention is to diminish the serious nature of marriage and to complete undermine its status, this proposal is pointless.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity, seriousness and public nature of marriage would be undermined.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

These suggestions seem to be made with the sole point of diminishing the serious and public nature of marriage.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This suggestion seems to be made with the sole point of diminishing the serious and public nature of marriage, turning a wedding into a bit of holiday fun rather than a genuine commitment.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This suggestion seems to be made with the sole point of diminishing the serious and public nature of marriage, turning a wedding into a bit of holiday fun rather than a genuine commitment.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This suggestion seems to be made with the sole point of diminishing the serious and public nature of marriage, turning a wedding into a bit of holiday fun rather than a genuine commitment.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This suggestion seems to be made with the sole point of diminishing the serious and public nature of marriage, turning a wedding into a bit of holiday fun rather than a genuine commitment.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

If there is a demand, the people should be allowed to go ahead; but "marriages" held in such places should not be recognised by the law of England and Wales..

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If there is a demand, the people should be allowed to go ahead; but "marriages" held in such places should not be recognised by the law of England and Wales..

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People who are housebound should not be obliged to incur additional expense merely to fulfil their normal legal obligations.

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Since I would suggest that the only suitable places outside register offices are the churches of non-conformists denominations and other places in which marriages may be held in extremis, such as in hospitals or the homes of the housebound, the fee should be fixed and universal.

### Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no idea what 'discretionary services' might entail, but I suspect that what is envisaged would be intended to undermine the seriousness and dignity of the marriage.

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the same as in the register office, for the sake of equity.

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It is quite clear that were some of these proposals to be carried out, the number of marriages would increase greatly, and than the number of divorces would increase by at least the same amount. It is noticeable that children have not been mentioned in the course of this consultation; they, even more than adults, would suffer great harm from these proposals, which are clearly aimed at diminishing the dignity and seriousness of marriage, and the whole notion of a long commitment. The focus seems to be on the wedding day, not on the marriage, and upon the novelty aspect of the wedding. The proposal should be rewritten to make a clear distinction between marriage and the subsequent celebration, for which couples may go where they like in the world, in the sea or in the air.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The necessary cost of marrying in some places, such as Catholic churches, is that of the registrar alone; as a church organist, I make a charge only if people are splashing money around. In many case, families work together to use their skills for flowers, wedding and bridesmaid dresses , cakes, food and drinks. In other cases, people show a marked lack of common sense, even if they are not well off. I have little experience of marriages outside register offices and Catholic churches, but it seems apparent that a clear distinction needs to be made between the serious and legally recognised marriage and all the celebration and partying that has been seemingly essential to most weddings. My opinion that that the law should keep the two entirely separate, and should not give in to the follies of fashion and one-upmanship.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJY-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 17:49:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

a longer period to allow proper investigation of the couple's eligibility for marriage

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided the substitute officiant is suitably qualified

Please share your views below:

what is meant by 'other circumstances?'

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

largely irrelevant

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

question not understood

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

agreed

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

both

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

ambiguous question == misleading use of the word 'only'

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

more ambiguity. No religious organisation would promote activity contrary to public policy of morality

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

not understood

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

would depend on the level of security offered

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

not understood

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJ3-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 17:51:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews lay wide open the possibility of deception and covering over details that might prevent the marriage. For instance: in the case of forced marriage a online interview precludes the interviewer from 'getting a sense' that there is something not right. I believe a face to face interview should be the only option.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Marriage was 'invented' in the church and anyone who is to be married in a Christian context should follow the existing rules. So called 'marriages' not involving the church will make their own rules!

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be the way of everything, but may not preclude any who wish to post differently.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea of publishing 'Banns' is to inform the general public that a marriage is soon to take place. In the Christian context, this should be retained.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

In a Christian context, these are safeguards against deceptive (co-erced or forced) marriage and should be retained.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a commitment for life, though many do not view it that way today. The declarations should be retained.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is a difficult and complex question to answer.

Any organisation that promotes, say, terrorism, should not be allowed and excluded from 'religious organisations'.

However, caution is needed as any later change in the list could be used to exclude 'Politically INCORRECT' organisations.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an official vetting procedure by the Registration authority.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends entirely on what is accepted as 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

The content and tone of marriage should uphold the dignity and solemnity of same.

The official conducting the marriage cannot, and should not, decide these factors beyond the actual marriage ceremony, but should have overall responsibility to manage the marriage ceremony in the seriousness of law.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Registration authority should be the deciding body, otherwise how is conformity and continuity maintained.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the officiants are monitored and regularly trianed in any new laws that apply.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should, as now, be a section of 'prescribed words' that is used wherever the ceremony takes place. These can be added to as they are now, the overall wording being flexible to suit, but retaining the 'prescribed words'.

The parties to be married should be present at the ceremony and and able express their desire to be married.

If they are not required to be present, then again, there is an open door to deciet. For example, how do you identify and verify the person who is not present at the ceremony, but declares remotely, and/or signs a document remotely.

This risks undermining the solemnity and denies the seriousness of the committment being made.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. The ceremony should reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony.

There have already been marriage ceremonies that seem to mock and make fun of the meaning behind marriage.

One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Let the religious groups perform marriage ceremonies in their own desired way, but they should not be coerced into marrying those of a different belief or standpoint.

There are plenty of options already available for them to utilise.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is either one or the other.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The declarations made during the ceremony should be public for accountability reasons.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If it is a legal ceremony then it should be conducted at a 'licensed' venue with witnesses, as now. This goes a long way to removing the possibility of forced or coerced marriage.

Please share your views below:

If weddings are allowed in any venue as suggested in the question, how long before the dignity and solemnity of marriage is abused totally.

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But under specific and legally binding guidance.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The terms 'safe' and 'dignified' need to be defined, otherwise it becomes open to individual interpretation.

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be propose

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should be responsible for overseeing and maintaining standards as set by law.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided adequate identification is produced.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These are all necessary to validate the actual ceremony.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJD-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 18:07:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am married.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think advance notification to marry can be recorded and should be made available in a more accessible and reliable way, such as on a Dot.Gov website. Reading banns in Church can't reach a sufficiently wide audience.

An accessible list of those planning marriage is vital to ensure marriage isn't planned by those not entitled to marry (such as those already married and not divorced)

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See my response to Q4

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages are often scheduled a year in advance. A months notice is suggested

Hurried marriages or marriages with little notice may point to an inappropriate (forced?) arrangement

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think a face-to-face interview is the better option and more likely to flag up circumstances where "concerns arise"

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

These circumstances should not be exemptions - they would increase the opportunity for a proposed marriage that might 'cause concerns'

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns are not a wholly effective means of broadcasting a forthcoming marriage, especially Banns issued hundreds of miles away from the event

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think Banns should be far more broadly published - preferably including on-line on Govt website

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree. These measures are in place to reduce the risk of illegal marriages

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree, separate declarations are required for safety purposes. Otherwise one party could innocently make an illegal declaration if their partner hadn't revealed all relevant facts

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican staff are the most experienced people we have to manage these preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A civil officiant isn't required at an Anglican ceremony - it would be unnecessary duplication

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to too many officiants - An Anglican or Civil official should be sufficient.

The alternative would generate yet another consultation into which "non-religious belief organisations" would be authorised to nominate officials. There are hundreds of non-religious belief organisations" that could seek to nominate and trying to sort out the sound versus the inappropriate would be a massive and controversial task

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my answer to Q23

If the test includes the need "to live their lives in conformity with the understanding associated with the belief system." Their belief system could include beliefs that were at odds with marriage.

This definition would open a can of worms for those trying to police or interpret it

Please share your views below:

See may answer for Q24

The list would never be complete and compiling it would be a nightmare for those charged with maintaining such a list

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"their beliefs" could include The Abandoned Donkey Benefit Groups (or equally or more absurd examples) - with respect, it is a daft unmanageable suggestion .

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Definitely not

" unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality." will soon be used to prevent Churches expressing their right to refuse mixed-sex Church ceremony marriages.

The 10 Commandments were and remain the foundation of most civilised legal systems in this World and NOT "public morality" which is a moving and unreliable feast.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must logically be a central easily accessed list

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if there were a means of checking their capability for carrying out that function and providing mandatory training/certification

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But how would the State police "fit and proper" ..... according to what/whose standards?

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But is that standard checked periodically after they are appointed?

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe, but who will be able to prove that organisations were indeed "making a business of officiating at weddings, by elevating the making of profits above the expression of their beliefs." How much profit lifts the activity "above the expression of their beliefs"?

This is another reason not to allow an explosion of persons allowed to officiate

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will create a new industry for celebrity officiants - In Q32 you seemed to be concerned about the opportunity for profit clouding the purity of the role

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But who decides what is and isn't dignified? Is underwater or skydiving weddings dignified? If so it's a fairly meaningless protection

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided that doesn't constrain The Church's current practice

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Centuries of experience show that self-policing isn't very effective

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided this isn't a back-door way of allowing The GRO to decide that The Church officiants shouldn't be allowed to maintain their stance on heterosexual marriage

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A sound and proper person may not continue to be so for ever

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the CPD didn't interfere with views on marriage being for a man and a woman as is the Church belief (and most of the Country if you consider the number of same-sex marriages versus 'traditional marriages')

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People who don't have any impediment to marry won't object to saying so - I would worry about persons reluctant to confirm that

A marriage ceremony" if the ceremony did not contain an expression of consent" isn't a marriage ceremony. I would worry about persons who weren't able to express a consent to marry during their marriage ceremony - it is an absurd suggestion

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will lead to undignified ceremonies with couples competing to have the wackiest wedding with subsequent loss of dignity

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Tho' I doubt that 'Religious Content' can be safely or adequately defined

Please share your views below:

See my answer to Q25

Trying to define this adequately will prove impossible

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open door requirement is a protection against improper or illegal marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Trying to list exceptions will be fraught with controversy - better to have a sensible list of acceptable venue types

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be broad central guidance

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

safe - yes

Dignified - isn't a matter of fact - its a matter of opinion

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Pre-approval by local registry office or its officials

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Not in Welsh only as it is so inaccessible to the great majority

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I can't see the point if an authorised celebrant official is in attendance at the event

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a witness

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple hasn't cohabited why would they want to get married (except for 'concerning' reasons?)

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

we are all at risk of death - in fact its a racing certainty

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The cost of officiating will be uncertain - how will officials price for their attendance?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Trying to create a list will be very difficult - people will come up with all sort of daft ideas - lilos, windsurfers, kite surfers , water skis, oil rigs etc etc

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Who knows! If it is allowed, there will be demand!

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Housebound - yes. In Prison, No

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Dignified isn't a status that can be easily or reliably agreed

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes for Housebound, - No for imprisoned

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Most of your proposals are likely to increase costs

A legally recognised wedding isn't expensive -the cost of Registry office ceremony isn't expensive

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

All or most of your proposals will increase costs

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJG-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 18:16:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

No organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any good reason to continue it.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided there is a failsafe system in regard to acknowledgement of the notice.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because other types of wedding will have an officiant from that religious community etc.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not really see the point of having two.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of non-religious beliefs, there must be an existing understanding that the belief is serious as well as sincerely held or a system of carefully vetting the belief to ensure that it is not a group put together merely for the purpose of conducting a marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, because in a large organisation, the office holder ought automatically be able to act as officiant, for example, an ordained clergyman of any religion.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because there may be a difficulty in exercising sufficient and adequate supervision of independent persons.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the essential rules must be enshrined in law. The responsibility of the officiants must extend to making sure that content of the ceremony itself should be consistent with the very serious nature of the marriage state and the vows taken by the couples.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree that the primary responsibility should lie with the organisations, but if the organisations do not observe such responsibility properly or effectively, the overall responsibility should lie with the General Register Office.



Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be time limits, but they should be reasonable in length, for example, 10 years. Then after 10 years, they could be re-appointed after significant (rather than cursory) checks.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The expression of consent must be set out in specific words which must be the same for every wedding ceremony. The wording need not be elaborate but must be clear and the simpler the better. Other aspects of the ceremony may vary, but consent expressed at the time, NOT LATER, is important. Signed statements later can confirm, but not replace words said at the ceremony. If it is impossible for one or other of the couple to say the words due to some disability, it may be expressed in some other acceptable way.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage state is a serious decision taken by both parties. The ceremony must reflect that. Jokey ceremonies are totally inappropriate. The law should set out the basic structure of the ceremony and probably a lot of the wording. Parties may suggest specific wordings which are particularly relevant to them, but everything must be vetted in advance by the officiant who is only given the power to approve in accordance with specific guidelines aimed at preserving the dignity and solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any appropriate religious content should be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No good reason to change the current situation in this respect. If it is repealed, it would then be unlawful to have a religious ceremony after the civil ceremony which makes no sense.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It helps to protect society against forced marriages and it maintains marriage as a significant aspect of public life.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As soon as weddings are permitted to takeplace anywhere, the essential dignity and solemnity of the occasion is compromised if not removed. For example, I have seen photographs of marriage under the sea and on the top of a mountain. These are unacceptable.

If the seriousness of the promises exchanged during the ceremony are borne in mind, the location should be appropriate although not necessarily confined to churches, chapels or gloomy halls. Marriage should be a joyful occasion, but the joy comes from the fact that two people love ieach other so much that they are making solemn committments to ech other to join their lives together as long as they both live.

Please share your views below:

There may be occasions when a wedding can be sufficiently dignified and serious in a suitable outdoor setting, but not otherwise.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages must be in public as already noted.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be obvious

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the officiant's powers are restricted to following tight guidelines

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that guideines are clearly drafted to explain what this means in practice.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General Register Office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English is the official language of the UK.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The absence of witnesses should be fatal to the validity of the wedding.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I would say 'Yes' to (1) but no to the implications of (2), (3) and (4).

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on circumstances. Certainly not 'in' the sea, but possibly on the sea.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes provided that other requirements about solemnity, dignoty and seriousness are strictly observed.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Applies only to cruise ships.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only by the ship's captain or his or her deputy or, in the case of a religious ceremony, by an appropriately ordained priest, minister or vicar of that religion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See earlier response

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJH-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 18:31:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

none , I was fine with a legal wedding

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

my step daughter got married in a registry office with a maximum of 8 people - in my view it was OK and an appropriate and serious occasion considering the circumstances . The officials did a nice job .

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no good reason to change this as it demonstrates stability of residency

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the modern era an on line approach to notice makes sense to me

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I think a longer ( say 1 month ) period allows time for the seriousness of the step being taken to sink in and prevents a very serious decision being taken on the spur of the moment or under undue influence or pressure

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person is much better . with covid still around for the next few months a zoom interview might suffice but not as a long term approach

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

why not ?

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

why not if privacy is protected

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure of the significance of this

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

why not ?

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

why not ?

Please share your views below:



substitute officiants should be at the same level and calibre as the main person proposed

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the banns system has worked well for centuries - why change what is working fine ?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure how many churches are subject to war damage but I suppose that possibility exists in the long term ( hopefully not )

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

could be any other Anglican church where one or other of the couple resin and attend

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

- 1 - not sure what documents they need so no idea on this
- 2 - yes I think its a good approach

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason not to take the word of an anglican vicar

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as they are not known personally to the wedding participants in which case fraud chances increase

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure of the implications of the court case but for Christian weddings no problem with other denominations allowing recognised clergy to officiate at weddings

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not well informed on this

Please share your views below:

yes otherwise any organisation becomes a wedding officiating body - this needs carefully thought through criteria

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

depends on how 'serious' and relevant to marriage the body is

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes excepting the laws pertaining to discrimination which many religious ( Christian Muslim and others ) reject

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

no , named individuals can be more closely monitored

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

better control

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

to loose a concept

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

vital

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

training is key as long as the content is right !

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

absolutely

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

for many younger people getting married is already very expensive and no limitation on fees will only make that worse

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

would be a contradiction

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the most important aspect you've asked about

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

they might be biased - needs a re-think

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think a term , say 5 years , then re registration would be better to allow standards to be maintained

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think some basic components of the marriage ceremony should be required irrespective of who is being married and who is conducting it

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

some who are not religious believers may nevertheless want some religious content so why not let them have that ?

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Much better for the two to be linked for religious weddings as now - what's the value of this change ?

### Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure : I like the idea that the public can see what's going on but I wonder if there's an opportunity for mischief making ?

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

needs to be a ' serious ' column occasion so this does not work

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I would limit location to ' serious ' venues plus countryside/outdoors

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

people should be able to get married in the venue of their religious and / or non religious choice but don't force a mix of the two

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

depends on the changes to officiants being proposed - only if there is a high level of quality and control over who they are

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Registrar organisation

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1/2/3 yes - not in favour of same sex marriage so don't understand this point

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

co habitation is a normal part of marriage so that statement seems a bit daft to me

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure of the significance of this

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

they should be allowed to marry if they meet the marriage criteria

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

don't understand the significance of this

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

such powers have been misused by government under covid and should be resisted

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this is very poorly defined

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above - venues that emphasise the seriousness of the commitment are paramount

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

not a serious venue

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

none

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

qualified serious officiant is key to the marriage institution being taken seriously

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

don't agree with the concept

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

demand should not determine supply . emphasis should be on ' serious ' venues

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

don't like the concept

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

there is a fine balance between cheapening marriage as an institution and encouraging couples to go down that road . if my responses were reflected in the way it is decided to go forward I think the balance might be about right

### Consultation Question 86:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no problem with current cost levels on the wedding formalities side

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

savings should not rive a cheapening of marriage , a good marriage process is worth paying for

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I am not a fan of the 2005 legislation

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

don't understand the question

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

nothing major

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

nothing major

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

not sure

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see no issue with anyone travelling anywhere to get married

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

don't understand the issue

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

ditto

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

quality of marriage as an institution is more important than cost

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJW-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 18:38:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Personal response only

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is in accordance with the law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This gives the impression that marriage is trivial, and waters down the level of commitment which is really important for couples to recognise and understand

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Helps reduce unnecessary red tape

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Sufficient time to fully think through all of the consequences of a major decision

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this makes sense, and reduces cost and bureaucracy.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, to make it practical

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as it is the most practical way of doing it.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Must be practical.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Necessary

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practical

Please share your views below:

No, only as indicated above, otherwise it would not be appropriate

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

makes sense

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No longer applicable

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

A wider distribution would be better to avoid proper consideration

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, the clergy need this ability to ensure that requirements are properly met

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this is necessary to ensure integrity of both parties to a lifetime commitment.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity and special nature of the marriage institution.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

many people prefer a Church wedding

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most practical way forward, providing suitable controls are in place to ensure that the marriage institution is not trivialised

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as this ensures ongoing integrity of the institution

Please share your views below:

Yes, organisations that would trivialise marriage should be excluded

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, so as to ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Just the office would be sufficient

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so as to ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely yes, so as to ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, due to practicality

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Conflict of interest

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is extremely important , so as to protect the institution of marriage

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality, but still not the organisations to be monitored for integrity by Registrar

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure ongoing integrity of the institution

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

OK other than point 4. The marriage should be formed at the point when the Officiating officer declares the couple married, otherwise there can be many unnecessary complications.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The other way around. The procedure as specified by the officiant to be agreed with with couple in advance.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Basic common rules and wording need to be agreed for all organisations otherwise the integrity of the procedure can too easily be debased

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People should be able to have a religious service afterwards should they so wish. It would be totally unreasonable not to permit this

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In order to prevent abuse, this control is necessary

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It must be in a place that is appropriate for a serious lifelong commitment.

Please share your views below:

Yes, as many of these venues trivialise the marriage, and make a mockery of the institution.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would lead to abuse, and give the message that marriage is not a decision for life.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Prevent abuse of religious venues and ensure integrity

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some unsuitable specific locations should be outlawed completely to protect the institution of marriage, where they would trivialise the event

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We need proper safeguards to maintain the integrity of the institution

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a very necessary safeguard

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safeguards need to be in place to maintain integrity

Please share your views below:

Registry Office rules laid down in advance setting the standard based on decency and high standards. Rules approved by Parliament

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Keeps proper order

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safeguard integrity

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are important to safeguard integrity, otherwise it will be abused

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To protect integrity

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the marriage was properly witnessed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Integrity

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Protect the integrity

Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not in a position to comment

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unable to comment

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unable to comment

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing integrity is not compromised

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing integrity is not compromised

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

To be avoided as integrity could too easily be compromised

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Would compromise integrity

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing integrity is not compromised

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To protect the institution

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Unable to comment

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practicality

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practical

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For those choosing this option

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Practical

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZU-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 18:54:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

PRIVATE CITIZEN

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

no experience

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement is unnecessary.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure that any period of time should be specified. Interviews

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be arranged to use the possibilities opened up by advances in communications technologies.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Maximum flexibility is desirable.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The possibilities opened up by communication technologies should be utilised to the full.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this issue.

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand the reason for this proposal.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand why this rule exists.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I do not understand the reason for this restriction.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this issue.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, both bride and groom should attend, albeit possibly virtually through the aid of communication technologies.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican Church should not be privileged over other churches or religions.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to ensure that both parties are seen and heard to make their reciprocal commitments before at least one impartial witness.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I may have misunderstood the import of this question: I would insist that registration officers are authorised to officiate at church/temple/mosque weddings as well.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would certainly expect that only employees of government function as officiants.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Only government employees should act as authenticating officials.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only impartial government employees should act as official witnesses.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I have suggested, only government employees should act as impartial witnesses.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

As I have already said, only government employees should act as official witnesses.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, only government officials should act as impartial witnesses.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees and reimbursements for necessary expenses for officiating at weddings should be standard across the country.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure that I understand the question.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage in my view is a serious and solemn and binding commitment, so, yes, officiants should indeed have a responsibility to uphold its dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I have indicated earlier, only government officials should act in this capacity, so only Government should sanction failures to comply with what is expected.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The government should require a standard declaration of commitment to be included in any ceremony of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, provided that no form is without a declaration of permanent commitment to the marriage.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on specific examples.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fully private but officially witnessed weddings seem in order.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Provided the civil authority can furnish an authorised official witness to the marriage, where it takes place is immaterial.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As marriage is a solemn and lifelong commitment, the location of the wedding should be as safe and as dignified as circumstances permit.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that the date and location of the wedding should be recorded but cannot see the relevance of the names and occupations of the parties' parents.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If electronic registration is available, failing to utilise it would be silly.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Presumably the mistakes in mind do not affect the substance of the marriage document; the presence of a civil servant as registrar is sufficient witness; the failure to sign at the wedding itself can be presumably rectified later.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The possibility of 'marriages of temporary convenience' should be a sufficient argument to warrant a 'NO'.

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple have given and nurtured the impression that they are married, the presumption should stand.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure I have fully comprehended the question.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I do not know of any such problems.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Parties with a terminal illness should be treated no differently from other applicants.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule should be the same for all couples bent on marriage.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, only if all other couples are subject to the same term of validity.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I can see no objection to weddings taking place in international waters, provided all the requirements of notice, registration and witness are met.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that there is provision for the presence of an official government witness.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no information or views on the existence of demand for weddings in international waters.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a reasonable requirement: there is no reason that the registration officer or the taxpayer should be expected to pay.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am insufficiently qualified to answer either of these questions.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on these issues.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on these issues.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no views on these issues.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no views on these issues.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this issue.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on these issues.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am unable to assess the potential benefits.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this matter.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I am unable to estimate the potential costs.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFWP-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 19:12:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Sadly even this first double negative question shows how far removed those who are running the consultation are from ordinary people who aren't not uneducated.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

And sadly this second question compounds the error of the first in showing that those who are running the consultation are way, way not close to understanding the majority of people who aren't as bright as the people who wrote this consultation and aren't not uneducated.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Are you sure you've got this question right? It suggests that you think the words "wedding" and "marriage" are synonyms. Do you perhaps mean "was it your choice not to have a legally binding marriage (and if so, what were your reasons for doing so)?"

The next question suggests you've got this one wrong - or that the next one is wrong.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Almost every person who is not married from teenagers onwards has experienced "consequences" from not being in a marriage, whether legally recognised or not. Some consequences are good, some bad.

This question as written has nothing to do with the purpose of the consultation, which is stated to be about "weddings law".

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

There was a young fellow of Lyme  
Who married three wives at one time  
When they said, "why the third"  
He replied "One's absurd,  
And bigamy sir is a crime".

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Weddings have been rather more meaningful when only a few family and friends attend.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The whole tenor of this consultation seems to be about removing almost all meaning from "marriage" (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law).

If that is so, as seems to be the case, there should be no objection to forced "marriages". It also means that it would be pretty well impossible to know what is a "sham marriage".

Indeed, ex hypothesi, why on earth have any interviews at all. What purpose would they serve if marriage has almost no meaning (except for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law).

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The whole tenor of this consultation seems to be about removing almost all meaning from "marriage" (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law). If that is correct, what is the point of having any "notices of marriage"? None so far as I can see.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sorry chaps. This is a nonsense question. I've used my computer to search this form and there has been no mention of any "schedule" so far. What is the question asking?

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What schedule? None has been identified in this consultation.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) it shouldn't matter who is the "officiant" or indeed whether there is an "officiant" at all.

Please share your views below:

If marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) it shouldn't matter who is the "officiant" or indeed whether there is an "officiant" at all.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If marriage has its normal meaning then my answer is "yes"

If marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) as seems to be being proposed then my answer is "no".

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) as seems to be being proposed, then there is really no purpose in requiring banns at all.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No need for either of the above if marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) as seems to be being proposed.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

if marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) as seems to be being proposed then this is a waste of time,

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

if marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) as seems to be being proposed then surely, logically, there is no need for any preliminaries.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

If marriage has no meaning (other than for formal purposes, such as tax and immigration law) as seems to be being proposed then surely, logically, the main reason for people getting married in the future would be no more than because of tradition and the fun of having a party. This would surely mean that, gradually, most people would not bother to get married.

So I think that, over time, your provisional proposals would lead to a reduction in the number of couples who are legally married.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFWE-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 19:30:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, all interviews should be face to face.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

NO

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFWN-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 20:01:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

United Kingdom

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to change the existing requirement

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Prefer one calendar month. Marriage is not something that should be rushed in any way

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This seems to be too vague

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1. No to 2

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No. Only in the circumstances outlined above

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limit on the fees they charge

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes. For example, the quoting of appropriate Bible verses

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple or their families should be allowed to decide

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be held in a place that lends itself to an atmosphere where the seriousness of the couple's promises are given due importance, rather than informality and flippancy

Please share your views below:

Yes, for the reasons given above

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be open to abuse.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The necessary solemnity and importance of the occasion and the vows made would be likely to be jeopardised

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the reasons given above

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, for the reasons already outlined

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not known

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Not sure

2. Hopefully, provided the ceremony is conducted at a place and in a manner in keeping with the solemnity of this important occasion and the vows being made thereat.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFWZ-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 20:28:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Evangelical Church, [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state:  
authorized person

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

for the sake of efficiency

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

however long it might take for the Register Office to confirm the validity of documents

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

best to keep it in-person; one rule for all

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes; continue

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Good idea!

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

by office

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1a should be obligatory

2 agreed

3 unnecessary given 1a

4 agreed

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it is a public event

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

public building

Please share your views below:

yes, limited to public buildings, to ensure a sense of dignity

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

shpould be publically accessible

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

GRO, and officiant  
by consultation with the parties concerned

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 agreed

2 and 3 disagree; itnesses are essential as is the couple's signatures

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this question is difficult to follow!

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 agreed

2, 3, 4 disagree; remoteness should not be advocated

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

no fee

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no fee

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFWB-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 20:37:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a local Parish Councillor.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

My information is not confidential but my phone number is [REDACTED]

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Mt wife and I have been married for 52 years. We have three children and eight grandchildren.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Heterosexual marriage is sacred and not to be undertaken lightly.

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds vague.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage in haste but repent at leisure.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This sounds vague again.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This is a dodgy area. I know of a sham marriage which left one partner devastated after her African husband disappeared.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this really necessary?

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand this.

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand this.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Don't understand this.

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand the grammar!

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. My banns were published in an Anglican church diocese where I lived but I attended elsewhere.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Common sense.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Sounds reasonable.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Gobbledygook! No non-believers should be allowed to officiate at a church wedding.

Please share your views below:

Don't understand this.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants at church services must be proposed by the church.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I don't understand this jargon. What precisely are you suggesting?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Why can't you explain things in plain English?

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand what you are driving at.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????????

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????????

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

???????

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a dodgy area. I take issue with anyone who suggests that a person may not refuse to conduct a homosexual marriage with which they do not agree. Furthermore, they should not be penalised in any way for their beliefs and moral standards about the sanctity of heterosexual marriage as laid down in the Bible. In short, officiants should be free to refuse to conduct a "gay" marriage. Full stop!

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my answer above.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This smacks of political correctness. Neither of the two officiants at my church need any further "professional development" - whatever that ugly phrase may suggest.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds reasonable.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is vague and leaves things open to abuse.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This is too open ended for a response.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What are you getting at precisely? It is perfectly reasonable for a religious service to take place after a civil one.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What are you getting at? Secrecy?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

?????

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What are you getting at?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Please share your views below:

What are you getting at?

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds dodgy.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is confusing but I repeat my assertion that no officiant should be forced to conduct a "gay" marriage to which they are opposed in principle.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I repeat my answer above.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What are you driving at?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand this.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

This is a grey area.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea!

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

????

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

????

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Heterosexual marriage has formed the basis of society for thousands of years and any attempt to change this invites disaster.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No moment on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

????

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

????

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

????

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

????

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

????

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Sham marriages must be opposed at all costs. They only result in misery for at least one of the two.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

????

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

????

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

????

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have no idea of the costs.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZK-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 21:21:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Anglican Parish Church, [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our parish church in Old Trafford has had only 5 weddings in the last 25 years, and none during the Covid-19 pandemic. It appears that most people in this area choose to cohabit, rather than marry.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the notice of intention to marry is to be published on a national website, the location of the registration office is immaterial, but the address of each party to the proposed marriage, and any previous address over the last 12 months should be included in the published notice, and the website should index intended marriages by each name and by each address or addresses, to assist the public in seeing if a party had given notice of intention to marry.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the 2 in-person interviews should be held at least 7 days before the marriage, a facility to give notice on-line will need to be given even earlier, so it may not be a useful facility.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This period is intended to give the registrar time to check on any queries to which the notice or in-person interviews give rise. It is really registrars who should convince the Law Commission as to the period of time required, which may well be more than 7 days, and certainly not less.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The in-person interviews should not be remote, because it is likely that any party who is hoping to mislead the registrar will request a remote interview. It will be much more straightforward and less confusing, if all in-person interviews are not remote. (This is without prejudice to the acknowledged fact that some parties with nothing to hide might also request remote interviews if they were available.)

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I refer to the previous answer, which I have given, which relates to the importance of in-person interviews. If I follow my view that in-person interviews should not take place remoteless, there is little benefit in notice being given from another country. This might appear pedantic to someone only just across the Scottish border, but it is less confusing to have a clear rule than one hedged about with exceptions.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am doubtful about the risk of harm. In the rare event that a party to a proposed marriage is being hunted by a dangerously malevolent person, it might be legally preferable for the party to change his or her name by deed poll before embarking on legal marriage. The notice in the "London Gazette" of the name change is less likely to be found than in a well indexed notice of marriage website. I do wonder if such circumstances are so rare as not to justify an exception in law, when the current intention is to keep the law relating to such a common thing as cohabitation and marriage straightforward and free from confusion. Perhaps the Registrar General should have power to dispense with such a formality on receipt of sufficient evidence on a case by case basis. The whole point of publishing notices is so that people do know who has given notice of intention to marry, and intended bigamy prevented.

### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registrar has to satisfy himself or herself that the parties at the time are consenting to a valid marriage. That marriage contract should be completed before circumstances have changed. I would envisage that being within 2 weeks, and I would suggest that 4 weeks should be the limit.

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I object to the proposed framework of officiants, and I have difficulty responding to this part of the consultation, because the Law Commission has ruled out of this consultation the option of a universal simple system of marriage by registrars, with couples able to have whatever ceremony or none which they wanted separately from the legal transaction before the registrar. This would be much simpler and legally safer, because professional registrars conducting lots of marriages would be alert to problems or potential illegality which might arise, and this would avoid a lot of proposed new law including a proposed new criminal offence.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with the proposed framework of officiants, which requires fairly cumbersome law such as this. I refer to my answer to the previous question.

Please share your views below:

I refer to my previous 2 answers.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that Anglican weddings should authorise legal marriage, and only marriages performed by the registrar should be legal marriages, leaving parties to make such arrangements with an Anglican church as they and the church authorities might agree. (I am an active member of an Anglican church, and not hostile to the church in principle.)

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I do not think that the Anglican church should be able to authorise a legal marriage, and only a marriage performed by a registrar should be a legal marriage. If this were to be the case it should not be a matter for the Marriage Act as amended, but just a matter for the Anglican church as to what formalities they wanted to observe. In such circumstances, they might no longer require the publication of banns before conducting a religious ceremony to bless and approve the marriage.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

If the Anglican church should continue to conduct legal marriages, something with which I would disagree, the Anglican clergyman should definitely have these powers. However many clergymen conduct so few weddings that it is difficult for them to be as well informed of and prepared for problems or potential illegality in a marriage as a professional registrar. My current rector has been in post for over 7 years and has married one couple in that time. During the preceding 20 years the parish had only 5 weddings.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I have stated in previous answers that I believe it simpler and preferable for all marriages to be conducted by the registrar with couples able to have such separate ceremonies or none as they wish. If however the Anglican church will continue to be able to authorise marriages, I firmly agree that both parties to the proposed marriage should attend and make separate declarations that there is no impediment to their proposed marriage in order for a common licence to be granted.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

If the law of marriage is to be revised, it is preferable that the changes should make it simpler and less confusing. It is therefore better that the same civil preliminaries should be required for all marriages.



## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be safer, simpler, and less confusing if all marriages were performed by the registrar.

### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I consider that only registrars should perform legal marriages, and parties should be able to have whatever other ceremonies or none as they desire and can arrange.

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registrars are trained and generally experienced officers, who should be able to deal with problems or potential illegality.

### Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I consider that only registrars should conduct legal marriages, because they are trained and generally experienced officers who can deal with problems and potential illegality. Some clerks in Holy Orders perform very few marriages. My rector has conducted one marriage in the last 7 years, and the parish had only 5 marriages in the previous 20 years.

### Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See my previous answer. However if such people are to be officiants, this proposal makes sense. I do question their lack of experience and training compared to professional registrars.

### Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This definition is hard to understand. I do not think people other than professional registrars should perform marriages, and my reservations about established religious bodies doing so, are amplified in relation to non-religious secular bodies, which lack the institutional experience of well established religious bodies, and are being set up to be an alternative to religious experience and group activity. They do not seem well equipped to be an integral part of a legal contract which, though non-religious, actually has its basis and background in a religious morality. One would expect them to be offering an alternative and opposite to religious marriage, not a copy of it. I am convinced that only professional registrars should perform marriages.

Please share your views below:

I refer to my previous answers. The proposal that non-religious secular bodies should be authorised to appoint people to conduct marriages simply leads to the confusion as to how to define such bodies and how to judge which should be listed and which should not. It would be much better if they and religious organisations like the Anglican church were all treated the same, and only professional registrars were permitted to conduct legal marriages.

### Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I refer to my previous answer. This proposal appears to be trying (if enabled by Government) to treat non-religious belief organisations as if they were religious belief organisations and conduct worship, something which a non-religious belief organisation is formed not to do. This is also raising the

difficult question as to whether a new organisation is sufficiently established. This is all very confusing and would be avoided if only professional registrars were authorised to conduct legal marriages.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This suggestion sounds like an invitation to create a new law to suppress freedom of opinion, and conscience and free speech. I have in previous answers stated that I think that only professional registrars should conduct legal marriages, and that would avoid the issues raised in this question. I find it hard to see the link between organisations which promote purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality. For a Marriage Act to seek to categorise purposes which are contrary to public policy or morality seems to be taking it away from the subject of what constitutes lawful marriage. (After all in some religions homosexual practice is immoral, and for some people saying that is immoral, and the Marriage Act should not be adjudicating on such moral issues, but allowing freedom of opinion, conscience and free speech.)

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This probably makes sense, although appropriate training and experience is needed for competent officiants.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In previous answers I have expressed my reservations about officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This does not indicate how independent officiants are suitable people to conduct legal marriages. I have grave doubts about the appropriateness of officiating at weddings as being an occupation, rather than being incidental to an occupation, as is the case for registrars and for some religious ministers. There is not enough to it. I have expressed wider reservations about officiants other than registrars in earlier answers, and they are magnified in this case.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that the person who conducts a legal marriage should be a fit and proper person, but the wider the net is cast to include people as officiants, the less confidence I have that they will all be suitably qualified. While I do not think that the Anglican church should be allowed to conduct legal marriages, but only professional registrars, at least we know that people are carefully selected and trained before ordination as Anglican ministers, and then they spend 3 years as sort of trainees (curates) with a more experienced minister, but it appears that the Commission has in mind other, so far unidentified, organisations which might not sensibly be trusted to train and select suitably fit and proper people for the proposed important legal role.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If people who have not trained as registrars are to be entitled to marry people, the proposed requirements make sense, but it does not seem sensible for someone to have to train and assess such people, and it raises the question as to who will undertake the training and assessment of such people, and whether the trainees will pay the actual cost of the training and assessment. I do call into question how such people will make a living, and what sort of paid occupation would lead a person to want to officiate at weddings on Saturdays. It would be much simpler and more straightforward to eliminate freelance officiants from the proposals, and limit the role of conducting legal marriages to professional registrars.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this proposal is adopted, it does not make sense for other people to profit from officiating at weddings as freelance officiants. It would be better if only registrars conducted legal marriages.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It clearly makes sense that no-one should conduct a legal marriage in which they have a conflict of interest, although it is hard to envisage a conflict of interest ( a wager? a dowry?). However it does appear unfair if, when the officiant is appointed by an organisation, there can be no profit involved, but freelance officiants can charge as much as they can find someone to pay, possibly even exploiting vulnerable individuals. There should be a "flat playing field" with no-one making a profit. I appreciate that, should that be the case, there may be fewer people wanting to be freelance officiants, but I do not think that there should be freelance officiants, even if experienced organisations can appoint officiants, and my preferred proposal would be that only professional registrars should conduct legal marriages.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand the rationale of this proposal. It is hard to understand that someone would want to be, or would appointed a nominated officiant by both a religious and a non-religious belief organisation. This proposal appears to envisage that some people would put themselves forward as officiants for anyone to use or appoint. This does not sound desirable. It would be avoided if only professional registrars conducted legal marriages.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal appears to presume that all parties to marriages want a dignified and solemn marriage celebration. I can see that it is important that parties to a marriage understand and appreciate that marriage is a very serious legal transaction. Rather than relaxing rules to allow for a "free for all" choice of how to get married, it would be better if the legal marriage was conducted by the professional registrar and the parties, in a separate place or places, celebrated in whatever solemn, dignified or undignified and cheerful way they chose.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal appears to be restricting one of the main thrusts of the proposals of relaxing marriage procedure and allowing much more variety. I would suggest that rather than creating a much wider range of officiants and then guiding them to conduct marriages the "right" way, only professional registrars should conduct a legal marriage, and the parties to the marriage can celebrate in all their varied ways in a separate place. The proposal along with associated proposals is leading to a more complex law of marriage, when it would be much better to simplify the law of marriage so that there is less room for people to be confused or misguided.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is some logic in this, although it shows a division of control between the General Register Office and other organisations which easily creates confusion, and can allow inconsistency, if consistency is an aim of the proposals, confusing as the proposals are. It is not really clear if the proposals are aiming at relaxed variety or consistency.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is some logic in this, although it shows a division of control between the General Register Office and other organisations which easily creates confusion, and can allow inconsistency, if consistency is an aim of the proposals, confusing as the proposals are. It is not really clear if the proposals are aiming at relaxed variety or consistency.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

While there is some logic in this, it is not clear how big a burden this will be on the General Register Office, and how the burden will be funded. It is all part of the confusion in the proposals as to whether they aim to relax the law to allow variety in a more diverse nation, or to maintain consistency, at the expense of the tax-payer and marriage partners vulnerable enough to pay more for a freelance officiant. It is quite likely that, consistent with a small budget, the General Register Office would start with a "light touch" control, and then at some point there would be a scandal, and the General Register Office would be obliged to increase surveillance and control at greater expense. The history of the Charity Commission is just one of many examples of this sort of thing happening.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on how they are authorised and supervised. For those in well organised bodies, it might well be appropriate for the only limit to be one of an upper age, but for freelance officiants a tight form of control by the General Register Office would be needed.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is not clear how it is proposed that the monitoring of independent officiants should be carried out, and at whose expense. The General Register Office or local registrars might be appropriate. If there is no monitoring, they may not actually undertake timely continuing professional development.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it would be better if all weddings were conducted in the same legal way by a professional local authority registrar.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the legal contract of marriage under English and Welsh law should be executed separately from a religious celebration or a semi-religious celebration.

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This provision enables those parties who wish it, to have a religious ceremony, after and separately from the legal marriage before the registrar. This can recognise that the parties are married in English and Welsh law, and married in religious terms.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage contract is not a private transaction affecting only the parties, but changes their status in the community. Marriages being in public is consistent with the obligation to publish the notice of intention to marry.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that in each case this should be subject to the agreement of the registrar if he or she is to conduct the marriage, and it is my preference that only local authority registrars should conduct legal marriages. If this were the case, it is likely that most legal marriages would take place in the registrar's chambers, but there should be no legal rule that marriages can only be contracted in those chambers.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I do not think that there should be a legal prohibition on legal marriages being contracted in various places, if the registrar agrees to attend. I should prefer that only local authority registrars conduct legal marriages. I think that a marriage certificate or schedule should record the location of the marriage, and I think that "in the air" is too vague a location. I realise that people's ingenuity will stretch any definition, and "in the gondola under a hot air balloon above the Town Hall" might be sufficiently specific.

### Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure about "publicly accessible"; surely there must be access for the disabled.

### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some of the "mix and match" mentioned above sounds undesirable, but surely it is up to the owners of premises and the parties to the marriages as to whether they will agree some anomalous arrangements.

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is really the legal responsibility of the occupier to ensure that the location is safe, although it is good that the officiant should check this out. Whether the location is sufficiently dignified must be the joint decision of the parties and the officiant, because the relaxation of the law should be allowing a variety of degrees of dignity to parties to marriages; indeed some parties are probably pressing for a change in the law so that they can have undignified weddings. I should prefer to see legal marriages conducted by local authority registrars, with the parties then able to celebrate the rest of their wedding in as dignified or undignified way as they choose.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure that this is consistent with the aim of relaxing the law relating to marriage. If local authority registrars were the only people authorised to conduct legal marriages, there would be no doubt about the legal nature of a marriage, and this more complex work for the General Register Office (which may well have austere finances) would not be necessary.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds like another complication arising from a proposal to relax the law on marriage. At the moment some premises are licensed for the solemnisation of marriages. I thought that the proposal was that that restriction would be lifted, but here there appears to be a similar, but not identical provision, which is complicated by the requirement for the approval of the officiant. Overall the proposals get more complicated.

Please share your views below:

It would be better not to implement it, unless the current law of local authorities licensing premises for the solemnisation of marriages continues. That provision is so recent that most people have only just got used to it.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not really understand the need for the parties parents to be identified on the marriage document or schedule, but it does come in useful when tracing family genealogies.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I hesitate and wonder if the absence of witnesses should render the marriage void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure about this on 2 counts. I am not sure if the presumption of validity is a way of saying here that the marriage can be avoided and set aside by the divorce court, but is valid until and unless that happens. I am also unsure if the propose is to repeal the age old common law requirement that a marriage is voidable if it has not been consummated. Case law is more specific about non-consummation than not cohabiting, but a change in this aspect of the law would be a major departure from established law, and should not be slipped in to the revision of the law so subtly that it might not be noticed.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is not a legal presumption, so it should not need legal abolition.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The argument in favour of this time limit is that if the void marriage has lasted that long, it can be dissolved by divorce, where the same remedies are available. I do not see that the time limit makes much difference.

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I regret adding yet another crime to the enormous list of criminal offences already on the statute book. It would make sense to deter people from doing the things mentioned, if there are going to be officiants who are not local authority registrars. There are existing offences like misconduct in public office and obtaining pecuniary reward by deception which would probably be applicable. If local authority registrars were the only people allowed to conduct legal marriages, this proposal would not even arise.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The weddings of such people need to be conducted on the site which one of the parties cannot leave. A registrar should be prepared to attend as necessary. If it emerges that the party was not so housebound, that party should be charged for the attendance, but if the reason for attendance was genuine the cost should be borne by the local authority employing the registrar. Such occasions should be rare enough to be a very light burden on the registrar's budget.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The in person interview records the situation at the time, and the marriage should take place as soon as reasonably possible thereafter, before there is time for circumstances to change. 2 weeks should usually be sufficient, and no more than 4 weeks should be allowed.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The in person interview records the situation at the time, and the marriage should take place as soon as reasonably possible thereafter, before there is time for circumstances to change. 2 weeks should usually be sufficient, and no more than 4 weeks should be allowed.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The first proposal above sounds reasonable, but, if no in person interview can take place, the wedding should be postponed until it can take place. I am unhappy about the 3rd and 4th proposals above, but it may be that, when the use of electronic communication has become even more firmly established, it will not sound so bad.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are a variety of situations where there is a proposal that someone close to death should marry. They are not all free of doubt as to the consent of the dying party, and the registrar should make a full assessment, even in the case of a national emergency.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I understand it, these marriages will take place outside the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts, although those courts might decide that they are valid and entertain divorce proceedings. However I think that it is undesirable.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As I understand it, these marriages will take place outside the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts, although those courts might decide that they are valid and entertain divorce proceedings. However I think that it is undesirable.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I understand it, these marriages will take place outside the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts, although those courts might decide that they are valid and entertain divorce proceedings. However I think that it is undesirable.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I understand it, these marriages will take place outside the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts, although those courts might decide that they are valid and entertain divorce proceedings. However I think that it is undesirable.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I understand it, these marriages will take place outside the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts, although those courts might decide that they are valid and entertain divorce proceedings. However I think that it is undesirable.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I understand it, these marriages will take place outside the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts, although those courts might decide that they are valid and entertain divorce proceedings. However I think that it is undesirable.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I do not know, but would not recommend them.



Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I understand it, these marriages will take place outside the jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts, although those courts might decide that they are valid and entertain divorce proceedings. However I think that it is undesirable.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that the registrar should have to charge an extra fee where the party to the marriage is housebound or detained, although, if it turns out that the party is not so housebound, a fee should be charged. Apart from that I think that the extra cost should be borne by the local authority employer of the registrar, and I think that the relevant occasions will be sufficiently rare for the burden on the council tax payer to be very small.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not know what the additional services are.

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that such cases will be rare and the additional cost could be borne by the registrar's employing local authority, bearing in mind that the parties are likely to be impecunious.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

I think that such cases are likely to be rare and the cost could be borne by the registrar's employing local authority, bearing in mind that the parties are likely to be impecunious.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think that the current law discourages marriage. I think that the principal reasons deterring parties from marriage are either (1) a desire to avoid a long term commitment to each other, or (2) a desire to have a big expensive celebration without the current funds to resource it. Neither are affected by the cost and procedure of a register office wedding, and a church wedding can be simple and relatively inexpensive without the trimmings.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not know enough about the comparative costs, but they are not relevant to my views expressed in my previous answer.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have expressed my views in answer to previous questions. I think that the proposals will make marriage law more complex, not less complex, and will not reduce the number of people who find themselves not legally married, when they thought that they were legally married.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I do not know enough about this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I am sure that owners and occupiers of premises will make as much money as they can out of weddings, because so many families are prepared to spend extravagantly on weddings.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law on local authorities appears satisfactory to me. It would of course help their budgets, if they could charge more.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not see potential benefits for local authorities. The added complexity of the law will give registrar's a little more trouble explaining it to enquiring members of the public, but apart from that the proposed changes look neutral.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJS-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 22:01:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Christian Peoples Alliance

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NO

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

WE went to a registry office and did the legal part then had a proper wedding in a church afterwards. The law does not recognise a church wedding outside the C of E. Even though it was in a C of E church it wasn't conducted by a C of E vicar.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My daughter wanted to get married in May but all weddings were banned then which I consider ridiculous. She got married on 4th July 2020 with around 20 family in the church and a mass of people outside both to greet the bride when she arrived and also to greet the couple as they left. WE then had a private ceremony in a garden for family only. It was a great occasion.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a sensible restriction so people go to where they live not just anywhere. If you abolish it then people can go and get married without thinking about what they're doing which happens too much now. WE don't want more of it.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is very important that the couple talk in person about their plans so the superintendent knows they are serious.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

a month minimum is appropriate and up to 12 months. The purpose is to do proper checks to make sure that neither party is already married either in this country or abroad. This cannot be done in 3 or 7 days. It is also necessary for the couple to spend a bit of time between declaring their intention to get married and actually doing it so they think about what they are doing and its permanence.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. This is the reason to have interviews and get married close to where people live. Remote interviews trivialise the importance of the interviews.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No problem with this.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

AS is now.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not an issue.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The point is bans are published where the couple live. If one partner lives in Scotland and they want to get married in England what is your problem?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. The whole point is they are published where the couple live. There's no point in having them at all otherwise. I can't believe the Law Commission are so ignorant about bans. Others who answer these questions may not know the purpose of them so your questions are nonsense.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

There's no problem with meeting the couple together provided it is done seriously and long enough.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes of course this is necessary.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

The church should be allowed to do what they want. The Government should require a minimum of preliminaries in our view at least 3 sessions of counselling. The church's preliminaries should be no less than the Government's. WE would give the couple a reward for completing the preliminaries, ie. a £12,000 grant to help with wedding costs provided it is the first wedding of both.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What's your problem with a registration officer officiating at a church wedding? There is simply no reason at all for this ban unless you are anti Christina and a bigot which is contrary to the Equality Act so we could sue you for doing this.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is already the case.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as minimum preliminaries are completed and recorded as such. I presume there will be no limit as to the number

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is nonsense. Atheism has no belief system. There are no morals outside of the moral code enshrined in religions such as Christianity. That's why Stalin an atheist could kill around 20m people (undesirables) for the "good of society" and not offend his belief system. If Atheists are to be allowed to conduct weddings then they can only do so in accordance with requirements laid down for civil weddings. The morals of every atheist are subjective. ie they can create whatever they want. You cannot build a marriage ceremony on that basis. What you have stated here as "humanity's nature and relationship to the universe" is simply the subjective atheistic concept of a tiny number of people and has no bearing in reality at all.

Please share your views below:

No such organisations should be listed. Atheists should follow the civil rules. Religions should be allowed to register provided they are recognised as such with a minimum number of adherents which have to run into millions of people.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You said earlier that non Anglican denominations should nominate their own officiants. The membership should certainly be one million minimum worldwide. 20 is just crazy. Sincerely held belief about marriage is nonsense. Of course atheists can have a sincerely held belief that marriage is of no value because there is no atheist belief system so they can believe anything they want. The requirement should be commitment to marriage as a lifelong union.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes if they don't believe in marriage as a lifelong union. There should be no other requirement. The law commission here is promoting anti Christian sentiment which is contrary to the Equality Act so under this rule the Law Commission should be banned.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You said earlier that each denomination or religion is responsible for maintaining its own list so the General Register Office has to keep a list of religious organisations that are able to nominate.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You either have to be officially nominated or you are part of the civil system. Atheists should use the civil system. You can't cater for each atheist or group of atheists that has their own subjective belief system and say they can be an independent officiants. That is nonsense.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So you don't need a register then do you?

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The category is nonsense. There is either a religious wedding or a civil wedding. Independent officiants are not a logical or sensible category.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is your problem? Price is affected by supply and demand. Why interfere with it? Let them find their own natural price. This really is a Socialist question that could only be framed by a Socialist who thinks that profit is a dirty word. Nonsense.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That sounds much better. Provided that there is a free market. There should be some means of registering a complaint at the way any organisation conducts weddings and one reason to complain may be excessive charge. It shouldn't be totally without the customer having any redress.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above don't agree with such.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course and state it is at least at the outset intended to be for life.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is welcome

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With a system for complaints that can be dealt with outside the organisation at the level of appeal. So a complaint would be made first to the organisation responsible and if the complainant was not satisfied could appeal to a Government body. Then complaints can be monitored and if one organisation had a lot of complaints then that would flag up a reason for threatening to withdraw their certification.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Only if there are a significant number of complaints made by customers. Not on the basis of some arbitrary standard made by an atheist body applying subjective morals. If so this will create a clash between Christian values and New Age liberal values which are basically just anti Christian. They don't actually derive from any other moral code.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't think there should be independent officiants other than those conducting civil weddings.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly age 80.

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who decides what is the content of your CPD? It's nonsense.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current words used are fine. You give no reason here for changing the current words. Certainly not needing to declare there is no impediment is plain WRONG. Marriage takes place after the signing of the registry, with witnesses, not before.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There have to be minimum requirements. After that yes.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand this question. For a start why have you singled out Anglican Jewish and Quaker weddings? Why not single out Baptist Hindu and Muslim weddings? or Pentecostal Sheikh and Buddhist weddings? This question is nonsense.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If in a civil ceremony the participants want to sing "Amazing Grace" because its their favourite hymn why should it be banned because its "religious". A lot of atheists get their base morals from Christianity since atheism doesn't have any so why not have some Christian content in a civil wedding?

Please share your views below:

OK. A Christian hymn or a Christian prayer. In fact banning these as is the case now is actually contrary to the Equality Act.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There's no reason it should be banned but hopefully this new system will make it unnecessary,.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? It's a public event.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should only be allowed in a location which is appropriate to the occasion. There can be flexibility but not no limits.

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

In the air is not appropriate. Some private homes can have the space.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public is best.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches meet in schools ad community halls. There's no reason whatsoever why these cannot be used as a venue for a wedding. These rules are simply not needed.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within bounds, ie provided that it is deemed appropriate to the importance of the occasion.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless there are complaints by customers about a location in which case there should be the power to inspect or deem a location unsuitable

Please share your views below:

There should be a person who deals with complaints who has the power to deem a location unsuitable in rare circumstances.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is valuable information for posterity.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration should be done as soon as possible to make access easier in future.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are of course other factors. 3 & 4 should be either party.

No

Please expand on your answer:

2 & 3 are absolutely vital to a marriage. I'm not clear on what mistakes you're talking about in 1. It's absolutely perverse you think you can have a marriage without 2 & 3.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This repeats some of qn57 and shows an unprofessional approach by the law commission.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There have to be witnesses and all the procedure followed. It should not be a problem if the witnesses to the ceremony cannot be located after every effort is made to find them as long as it is confirmed they were there and it took place.

No

Please expand on your answer:

But a time limit should be set and a registration required. I.e cohabitation for at least 10 years following which the relationship has been registered without a formal ceremony.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What time limit are you proposing? Are you saying that after 10 years one party can say they never agreed to the marriage? It's ludicrous.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No information

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This suggestion achieves nothing,.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That's the same as for others

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could be longer in these circumstances.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You already asked qn 2 before again showing unprofessionalism with this questionnaire. The answer is NO again. NO to 3 NO to 4.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No ides why you are distinguishing these 2 situations.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If on a large boat

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Royal Navy

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant is also needed.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1, No to 2

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There should be some Christian pastor or vicar on board a ship who can do a wedding.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cost should be passed on

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Should be compassionate in these circumstances. But might be means tested.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There shouldn't be a fee for this. It's not necessary.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary and ridiculous bureaucracy.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be compassionate and reduce the fees.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Special exemption should apply

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current law is OK but crazy that you can't sing a Christian hymn at a registry office or say a prayer.

No. Your proposals undermine marriage and would make it more likely people wouldn't bother. They are very bad.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. OK
2. OK
3. OK
4. You have to do the legal part at a registry office and the full wedding later. It's OK but not ideal.
5. Not expensive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. OK but it probably differs round the country
2. Savings are minimal. The cost of a wedding is in the outfits and the reception.
3. Savings minimal

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I've had a look <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2005/3168/regulation/13/made> and can't see what your problem is. Why don't you tell us properly?

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

3 is good for the first part of it "the ability of venues to host weddings officiated by religious officiants"

4 is false because the overall effect of what you are proposing is to undermine marriage making it less likely which I think you know full well.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

What you propose would undoubtedly make things worse.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

2. Would probably be badly affected
3. Non Anglican churches would benefit though the undermining of marriage in these proposals would cause some harm.
4. This proposal is perverse.
5. Very little effect

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFW3-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-19 22:53:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

MY WIFE HAS DIED. WE WERE MARRIED BY THE CHURCH.

No

Please expand on your answer:

WE WERE MARRIED IN GREECE. THE OFFICIANT WAS A PRIEST OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH.

No

Please expand on your answer:

WE EXPECTED OUR MARRIAGE TO BE RECOGNISED BY THE STATE.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

PEOPLE MARRYING IN THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH DO NOT NEED TO REFER TO THE SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRAR. THE PRIEST IS HIMSELF THE REGISTRAR.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NO OPINION.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

'REMOTE' INTERVIEWS WOULD BE OPEN TO ABUSE.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

NO OBJECTION.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

THIS PROPOSAL HAS NO PERCEPTIBLE MERIT.

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

IT IS OBVIOUSLY RIGHT THAT BANNS SHOULD BE HEARD IN THE HOME PARISHES OF BOTH PARTIES. OTHERWISE, WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT OF BANNS?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

REASONABLE PROPOSALS.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY DIFFICULTY IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

THE CHURCH MARRIED COUPLES FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE THE STATE INTERVENED. THIS PRIORITY SHOULD BE RECOGNISED AND MAINTAINED.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THIS SIMPLY CONTINUES THE PRACTICE OF MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

MAYBE!

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT THIS COULD BE OPEN TO ABUSE.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

THIS IS PRESUMABLY ABOUT POLYGAMY. NO, THE STATE SHOULD NOT SANCTION POLYGAMY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

THIS WOULD REQUIRE SOME CHECKING ON THE ORGANISATIONS, THE OFFICE HELD AND THE INDIVIDUALS.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

OBVIOUSLY.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

HOW?

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

FEES SHOULD BE LIMITED.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I THINK THIS HAPPENS IN THE CASE OF FUNERALS. SO WHY NOT AT WEDDINGS?

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

OF COURSE.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

CLERGY HAVE BEEN DOING WEDDINGS LONGER THAN THE U.K. HAS EXISTED. THEY MIGHT BE ASKED TO OFFER GUIDANCE TO OTHER OFFICIANTS.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

FOR THE CHURCH, YES. FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS - IT DEPENDS.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

FOR THE CHURCH, THIS IS THE BISHOP'S RESPONSIBILITY.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

SEE PREVIOUS ANSWER.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

SEE PREVIOUS ANSWER. THE CHURCH HAS AN HIERARCHY OF BISHOPS AND ARCHDEACONS, ETC.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

CHURCHES HAVE AUTHORISED FORMS OF MARRIAGE SERVICE.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE ABSURDITY OF A HYMN BEING FORBIDDEN IN A HOSPITAL WARD MARRIAGE BECAUSE IT WAS OFFICIATED BY A CIVIL REGISTRAR. I WAS A HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN. WE HAD TO TRUNDLE THE PATIENT AND HIS BRIDE TO A SEPARATE PLACE TO BLESS THEM AFTER THE CIVIL MARRIAGE.

Please share your views below:

SEE PREVIOUS ANSWER.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

THIS PROPOSAL IS ABSURD AND OPPRESSIVE. I CAN THINK OF NO POSSIBLE REASON FOR SUCH A RESTRICTION.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

MARRIAGE IS A PUBLIC EVENT. IT CONCERNS THE COMMUNITY, NOT JUST THE COUPLE.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO THINK OF UNSUITABLE PLACES!

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

THAT MARRIAGE CONCERNS THE COMMUNITY, NOT JUST THE COUPLE, SHOULD NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

SEE ABOVE.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THIS SHOULD DEPEND ON THE CONSENT OF THE RELIGIOUS VENUE'S AUTHORITY.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

IT SEEMS THAT THIS IS NEEDED!

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

THE SENIOR REGISTRAR OF THE AREA CONCERNED.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

MARRIAGE CONCERNS BUILDING THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY. IT IS THE BUSINESS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS AS WELL AS OF THE COUPLE CONCERNED.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

YES, PROVIDED THE PAPER DOCUMENT STILL EXISTS.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NOT NECESSARILY. THOSE CONDITIONS COULD RENDER A MARRIAGE INVALID, BUT IF THE COUPLE WISH TO CONTINUE IN IT, THEY SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE.

I DO NOT THINK THAT MANY RELIGIOUS GOVERNING AUTHORITIES RECOGNISE SAME-SEX "MARRIAGE".

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

MARRIAGE IS NOT JUST A PIECE OF PAPER.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THIS IS PRESUMABLY AIMED AT BOGUS 'MARRIAGES' TO GET ROUND IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

THOUGHT CONTROL?

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I HAVE OFFICIATED AS A HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN IN SUCH A CASE. I AM NOT AWARE OF PROBLEMS.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

IN THE CASE I ENCOUNTERED THERE WAS NO TIME FOR SUCH AN INTERVIEW,

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

DON'T KNOW!

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

12 MONTHS OR WHAT?

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I DO NOT FEEL QUALIFIED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

IF ADJACENT, WHY NOT MARRY ON THE LAND?

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

THE OFFICIANT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE MARRIAGES' VALIDITY, AS ARE WITNESSES, SURELY.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE PARTIES CONCERNED!

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

TO BOTH QUESTIONS: YES, PROBABLY.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

IN RETIREMENT, I DO NOT FEEL ABLE TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THESE ISSUES.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

3 above:

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

3 above: CLERGY SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO OFFICIATE AT WEDDINGS HELD AT VENUES OTHER THAN THEIR CHURCHES WHEN NEED ARISES.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFWS-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 02:22:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I want privacy because my views are based on the most ancient ordinance in sacred literature - that one man shall be committed for life to one woman, a view that today has led to people being harassed, marginalised, losing their jobs, etc. What has become of our society that a tiny minority of the population not only dictate the terms of the new morality but also hound and punish those who are not prepared to call same sex marriages normal and just as valid as the original male/female ordinance?

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

It's somewhat arbitrary but at least a month

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should always be in person to reduce the risk of sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No. Must be on home territory wherever possible

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could cause many to not go public by using risk of harm as an excuse.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst I agree with the proposed duty, it does not go far enough. Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, which suggests they are easy standards to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.
- Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.
- This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.
- There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.
- It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.
- The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- There must be clear safeguards around what counts as a “safe and dignified” location, to reflect the seriousness of the occasion. There must also be safeguards around the content of the ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.
- The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.
- Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a ‘Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns’ while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- The “open doors” requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.
- The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society.
- Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

- There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but caution is needed so as not to legitimise inappropriate settings.
- Where is the line to be drawn - would weddings be allowed in McDonald's?
- Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes.

I believe it is completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDH2-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 05:31:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a member of the Professional Fellowship of Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We chose to have a celebrant-led ceremony after our marriage ceremony as we knew the Register Office ceremony would not have been possible in the garden of a close relative and our pet dog would not have been able to attend which was important to use both. So instead we celebrated our wedding there with a large group of friends and family who attended a personalised celebrant-led ceremony, with our pet dog being the ring bearer, followed by a big party in the garden which held special memories for the family.

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a celebrant all my couples from 2020 postponed their ceremonies to 2021 and I officiated a wedding ceremony for one couple who managed to organise a micro wedding at very short notice after two other attempts to marry and have a reception earlier in the summer. This was a very special event for the couple and their family and close friends to celebrate the couple's love for each other after a long time of uncertainty and disappointments. As a celebrant this year has been a wipeout financially as will 2021 as I can only do so many weddings including those that have been postponed plus those for newly booked couples as I need to do them all justice.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this requirement can cause couples a lot of aggravation as well as expense; and secondly because it is not made clear that they don't have to marry in the district register office/s they have given notice in.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes more sense as it is more straightforward and inclusive as it is less of an expense re travelling etc.

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think that at least seven days seems reasonable.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely in agreement on this.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense in the present day, as the notices would be easily accessible for the majority of the population most of whom have access to the internet via phone or computer.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot answer this question as I don't understand it fully

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I could do with more information about this question - to clarify it

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, on the internet as well as in Question No 9 above

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes , most definitely - this would make the whole process equal and inclusive for all couples.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as in the reply to Question 16 above and it would make it easier for each member of the couple to talk freely with the member of clergy before the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I don't feel there is any need for change here.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Does this mean registrars - in which case no? It should be open to a independent celebrants as well to offer couples more choices for their Marriage Ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will enable all couples: whether one or both having a religion, a couple of mixed faith or both having no religion to be able to choose an independent officiant of their choice for their marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why do you need both?

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would need to be looked at carefully .

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am sure there is. Again this would widen the scope for all couples to choose where they can marry.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a reasonable fee that doesn't jump up on an annual basis, especially as all independent wedding celebrants have had very little work since March 2020 and are financially on their uppers due to being sole traders and not owning premises so a majority are not qualifying for any business grants

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I'd say yes to both. Some couples are definitely put off by the current set up. With more flexibility and choice of officiant and ceremony and without a lot of expense - this would encourage a lot of couples, I am sure!

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The availability of smaller including 2x2 ceremonies are far too few and would encourage couples who don't have a lot of money and or don't want a lot of fuss to get married. The cost of a R O wedding can be extremely expensive, especially on Saturdays and Bank Holidays and there is still very little choice involved to make it a personalised ceremony and also there is a good possibility that the couple don't even meet the registrar until the day of the ceremony and they are unable to build up any sort of rapport or relationship with this person.
  2. Similarly to No 1 the cost of a wedding ceremony at an approved premises can be extremely expensive and on top of this the licensed rooms are often not the most attractive rooms in the venue and the couples cannot choose their favourite room. Secondly, when there is an outside space e.g. a gazebo, it is often very cramped and a lot of the guests are unable to see/take part fully in the ceremony.
  4. The cost of first paying £600+ for a marriage ceremony and then to follow it at a non-licensed venue with a non legal celebrant -led ceremony which cost around £600 makes this avenue very expensive for a lot of couples who are desperate often to have a diy type wedding on a Farm for example and find this avenue too expensive.
  5. No 4 above touches on this point too. A lot of couples would prefer to have one ceremony IF it is personal and unique to them and they can include their family and friends fully in the ceremony!
- In addition if couples had the opportunity to marry legally in their own garden space this would also be a very good thing as I believe it would support more couples to marry. Also there are a large number of more adventurous couples who would like to get married outdoors, not just on farms or on fields with Teepees but near lakes and up hill and mountain sides, allowing for H and S issues, of course.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again my answers all underpin the main point which is that couples need to be given a wide range of choices to suit them, their beliefs, their family situation and especially their finances. It is the cost of a marriage ceremony, the reception and clothing etc. which does put off a lot of couples with and without children.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

A lot of businesses find the cost of licensing very expensive and restrictive and there are incidents where LAs have threatened the venue not to use independent celebrants instead of/or as well as registrars. This occurred at a venue in Nottinghamshire to me in 2018 where the manager was upset and undermined by the registrar the day before the ceremony.

If businesses could use a wider range of rooms and outside spaces for marriage ceremonies then this would support them financially.

A lot of outdoor venues are not licensed and prefer that as they don't want to be dictated to by the LA.

Again my answers all underpin the main point which is that couples need to be given a wide range of choices to suit them, their beliefs, their family situation and their finances.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1/3./4 This would help the venues market themselves as venues with a range of marriage ceremony options and packages and support all couples in their choices.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

For myself as an independent celebrant I am hoping from these proposals that it will not be too costly to be included as an officiant of legal marriages after I have addressed all the necessary requirements. Small businesses like myself should be given the opportunity to flourish as should the venues, big and small , indoor and outdoor. This would all contribute towards a much wider and better set of choices for future couples who marry in England and Wales.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXV-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 07:52:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am married according to law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should not be undertaken lightly

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Public listing preferred

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Good idea

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Don't mind

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes it official

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good system. Has worked well until now.

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Having an official list seems wise

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Don't create too many hoops to jump through.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fees chargeable should be capped and not onerous to poor people.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Vitally important

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but keep it short and simple

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it simple. The less bossiness there is in the system, the better

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to all, but include a statement by the parties that there is no impediment

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds like "Anything goes", and runs the risk of reducing the seriousness of getting married

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Good to allow the public to attend if they wish, provided there is room

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could trivialise weddings

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

What matters is the dignity of the occasion. Avoid triviality.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Create an ombudsman!

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Written records are more permanent

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are crucial. The paperwork should be done carefully.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep the fee low

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXE-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 12:05:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The content of the legal ceremony must uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.

It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration.

The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society.

Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues would be need to meet the test for “dignity of the occasion”.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXZ-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
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-

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

-

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-

Other

Please expand on your answer:

-



Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

-

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

-

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and doing away with the 7 days notice could be open to a sudden emotional action that might be regretted later.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A good idea.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

1 month

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

They should be done in-person for the reason given.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, in the church where the wedding is to take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes.
2. Not unless there is a cause for concern.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, definitely.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes.
2. Not necessary.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be reviewed every few years, maybe 5.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Re 1b. It is important to make a declaration publicly as there may be people present who know and choose to make public that there is a legal impediment to the ceremony taking place.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People have a change of heart.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public declaration .

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not to be trivialised. It is a serious and lasting commitment and therefore should take place in an appropriate building.

Please share your views below:

No, for the reason given above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the reason given earlier.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Not a fair responsibility to place on them.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The presence of two witnesses is important to validate the marriage.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reasons given earlier. Marriage is not a "one day" wonder but a lifelong commitment and so should be done in a serious setting.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As above.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFX5-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 12:25:29

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, these powers are needed, otherwise this undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment. Retain current system.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Totally insufficient and vague. This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to do with costs. This undermines the seriousness of marriage commitment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Scrap these vacuous proposals now. They all undermine the seriousness of marriage commitment.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXN-A

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Submitted on 2020-12-20 12:32:18

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Name:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is helpful for a basic institution like marriage to be linked to a specific locality

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

remote interviews cannot pick up cues which a face-to-face encounter enables.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

While the Church of England is the established church this is appropriate.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consent is important but it is not sufficient to validate a marriage.

A marriage is not a private bi-partisan arrangement between two persons.

It is a public commitment which deserves social support for the good of our whole society.

Thus it cannot be privatised or personalised in toto.

Public declarations (or vows) of lifelong fidelity in public are valuable to the couple and to family and observers - as a sign that marriage - and a new family (to which marriage should normally be a precursor) is an important public marker

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reality shows have gone to astonishing lengths as the incubators of negative self-exposure.

One can foresee ridiculous locations and ceremonies being proposed by zany couples with the help of a cooperative officiant.

Since marriages are part of the cement of a civil, civic, and civilised society, there should be a basic minimum of common words and practices for every marriage

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An open doors policy reinforces the fact that marriage is of public significance; it is not a private matter...

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is desirable that marriages should be publicly verified and validated.  
They should have a certain dignity and self-restraint about them (there is plenty of space and time for parties afterwards).  
It is therefore desirable that certain prescribed locations should be defined.  
Of course they should be dignified and safe - but this should not be left to the participants' judgement.

Please share your views below:

No - suitable locations do not include outdoors, lakes, rivers, in the air...  
And because marriage is a public affair it should be held in a public location.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

if, as seems likely, the number of officiants is to be significantly increased, it is NOT desirable that the suitability of locations should be left to their judgement.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A church, synagogue, temple, registry office are public buildings, used by tradition for solemn and important ceremonies - of which marriage is one.  
The suitability of a location should not be left to the officiant's private judgement.  
The meaning of "safe" I think is clear.  
It seems that the meaning of "dignified" needs to be clarified; and the normal meaning of the word needs to be carefully maintained.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Gaelic, Manx and Cornish are recognised minority languages

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXT-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 13:38:56

### About you

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement means that people intending to marry have to be settled somewhere for at least 7 days, showing some kind of minimum commitment to what is a lifelong vow together.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Again a face to face interview should always be required to avoid sham/forced marriages and protect those who may be harmed by them. Remote interviews are open to far more abuse.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There also needs to be a requirement that the actual content of the ceremony itself be 'dignified and solemn'. And of course there needs to be a written standard and definition of what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity' in order to make sure these tests are met.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In order to support the previous question of solemnity and dignity, there should be a draft guideline in place for a minimum requirement to be met. But that its not too strict so that it impairs the ability for weddings to be tailored and made specific for the couple.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Its far to broad to allow people to be married without even being present at the ceremony. And being able to say anything they like or nothing at all to count as 'consent' is also far too broad. As mentioned in previous answers there needs to be a minimum, set format and words used as standard to be legally married. This is appropriate for the lifetime commitment that they ae entering into and goes with the solemnity and dignity of the occasion.

This is how it is at the moment and there is already a large amount of flexibility allowed within a ceremony to enable couples to make the day special to them.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again I go back to the seriousness of a marriage ceremony. The law in our nation is a serious standard in all areas of life and we expect certain tenets to be met and kept. For instance, we expect judges, barristers, legal professionals, juries and defendants to all keep to a certain standard and code when in a court of law. This is entirely appropriate for significant events and necessary for society.

And the same applies for a wedding which is a public declaration - society and the state have an interest in it. As do the couple's families - it's not all about the bride and groom.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Forced marriage is still an issue in society and the open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago to help stop forced marriage. It needs to kept that way and it also helps retain that marriage is a public declaration - not something that happens secretly being closed doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Going back to previous answers - this revolves around dignity and solemnity.

A tree house as a wedding ceremony venue for example is not suitable for a such a significant event! Or a fast food restaurant - in fact an unofficial wedding ceremony has already taken place at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. (Not to mention S&M Dungeons) It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Clarity and descriptions are needed to define what is meant by 'safe and dignified' in order to meet these tests. There need to be stringent safeguards set out.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXB-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 14:14:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in church.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is recognised in law.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do have a legally binding wedding.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious and responsible undertaking and should only be entered into in a stable environment which allows continuity.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On-line communications are open to abuse and misrepresentation.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period, say a month, should be allowed for the verification of the persons' credentials.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews, eg. on-line are open to abuse and misrepresentation.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not everyone has on-line access or capability.

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What is meant by schedule?

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Depends on the circumstances.

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Banns are applicable to the whole of the UK.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Assume that war damage includes terrorist attack.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are either religious or civil - the inclusion of humanist organisations demeans the religious beliefs of others.

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Exclusion of religious organisations because of their conformity to politically correct public policy is a restriction of freedom of conscience.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a fixed list of fees and charges.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Define "dignity" and "solemnity". The ceremony itself should have a solemn and dignified proceeding not just dependant on the officiants attitude.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be sufficiently professionally developed before starting on his duties as an officiant without the need for further professional development!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties must be present and give their consent orally and in front of witnesses using a specific ceremonial formulated statement with prescribed wording. Anything else undermines the solemnity and dignity of the wedding ceremony and denies the seriousness of the commitment being made.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness of commitment , as well as the dignity and solemnity of the wedding ceremony is wholly undermined by a "pick and choose" approach allowing the parties to insert any frivolity they wish. A wedding is a public statement of a serious commitment to an important building block of society and so an approved format of ceremony should be used.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Communal prayers.  
The wearing of religious symbols.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All wedding ceremonies should be fully open to the public as they are of public significance. Open doors requirements are necessary to protect against "forced marriages".

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should only take place in approved venues which ensure the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony

Please share your views below:

None of the above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access must be allowed to all weddings.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Define dignity and safety. The officiant's personal opinions on these aspects in terms of location need to be subjected to a defined set of rules and prohibitions to ensure the solemnity of the ceremony.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance should be given by the officiant's own organisation.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The officiant's organisation.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Generally agree, but parental identification should be limited to "mother" and "father" only.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic security can never be guaranteed.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses and signatures are paramount.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why commit to a marriage and the not cohabit?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage without both parties consent is not a marriage

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

They should not.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The proposals would not change peoples attitudes to marriage but would undermine the seriousness of the present arrangements by an increase in laxity and a dilution of commitment, thus leading to further social disintegration.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs are minimal compared to what people spend on the accompanying "frills".

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No benefit.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:



Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXF-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 15:00:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proposed duty, but it does not go far enough. Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, which suggests they are easy standards to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony.

Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made. There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways. It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into. The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The “open doors” requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but you should express caution that this should not legitimise inappropriate settings. Question 48 specifically asks about couples having ceremonies “in the air”, meaning the safe and dignified test doesn’t seem too hard to meet. Would weddings also be allowed in McDonald’s? Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJ6-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 15:29:16

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage is legal

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The existing arrangements for banns should be retained.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The banns should be published on the church of the Groom and the Bride if those are different.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

They should be able to call for documentary evidence but should meet the couple together. Meeting each of the couple should not be required unless specifically requested by one of the couple.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. The opportunity should also be given, as at present, for those attending the wedding to be given the opportunity to state any impediment.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal does not go far enough. Upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage should not just be the responsibility of the officiant but also of all those having anything to do with the content and the tone of the ceremony. Marriage is the most important event in any couple's life and the wedding should always be conducted with the greatest reverence and solemnity.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as the General Register Office always maintains the highest standards of dignity and solemnity, which should be clearly defined and published.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Moreover, any member of the public should be able to request withdrawal of authorisation subject to the production of reasonable evidence.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Moreover, any member of the public should be able to request withdrawal of authorisation subject to the production of reasonable evidence.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Moreover, any member of the public should be able to request withdrawal of authorisation subject to the production of reasonable evidence.

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

"Continuing professional development" should be defined!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The consent for marriage must be clearly expressed orally in public by both parties and they should both confirm that there is no impediment to them marrying each other. A subsequent written declaration should simply confirm the public oral statements.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should take place only in a form and ceremony reflecting the dignity and solemnity of the occasion and using words traditionally used and familiar to the public.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican, Jewish or Quaker weddings should be permissible so long as they reflect the dignity and solemnity of marriage and emphasise its permanence .

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Religious content should be permitted so long as the dignity and solemnity of the civil ceremony is preserved. If there is significant religious content, then the couple should be asked why a full religious ceremony should be used instead.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A religious service should be permitted and possibly desirable but the question should be asked why the civil ceremony was used anyway.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should always be a public occasion reflecting the fact that a marriage is an official legal contract and a public declaration is essential. The "Open doors" requirement was originally introduced as a protection against forced marriage, which is still a problem in society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location for a wedding should only be one in which the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony can be preserved and emphasised.

Please share your views below:

Weddings should only take place in buildings or locations officially recognised as appropriate and reflecting the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. On the air, on water or in private homes would not meet these criteria.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a civil wedding location is officially designated as appropriate for the solemnisation of civil marriages, then the ceremony should always be publicly accessible.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious weddings should take place in religious locations. Civil weddings should take place in civil locations.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The decision as to whether a location is appropriate is too important to be the responsibility of a single individual.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Of course, an officiant should always refuse to preside at a wedding that is not felt to be safe or dignified enough. However, the officiant's opinion is not enough. Any location for a wedding must be capable of reflecting the dignity and solemnity of the occasion and if it is inappropriate then it should not have been designated as a wedding venue in the first place.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If an officiant is incapable of assessing whether a location is appropriate for a solemn and dignified wedding, then he or she should not be an officiant.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an approval process for wedding locations but approval should not be "optional".

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office should approve locations for civil weddings and the religious authorities should be responsible for religious wedding locations.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The registration should always be in English. Additional information in Welsh could be an optional extra.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Secure electronic registration should be permitted as an optional addition to written records.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All legal requirements concerning marriage should adhered to and errors or omissions should not be permitted or ignored.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Signing a schedule should not be sufficient to validate a marriage if a legal ceremony has not taken place.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Your proposals do not give sufficient weight to the dignity and solemnity of a wedding ceremony, reflecting the importance and desirability of marriage, which is the best decision that any couple can take in the course of their lives.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDED-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 15:43:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I find this question hard to answer. We had both a Humanist ceremony and a register office ceremony, because we were obliged to because we wanted to be legally married. This was a huge imposition, requiring us to make a 200 mile round trip to do the "legal wedding", which we did with only a handful of people. Our Humanist wedding was about a week later, with 100 people there and was absolutely our REAL wedding. It was meaningful, tailored, and in a place which was important to us.

I was not a Humanist celebrant at the time, and did not realise how important it was to find out what would be in the register office wedding. I cant remember the detail, because it was a long time ago, but I was quite shocked by some of the text. I have since been told stories by some of my couples of other unexpected elements in register office weddings - for one couple, they unexpectedly read a poem. Now, it turned out that this was one of the poems that they had chosen for their Humanist ceremony, to be read by the person who introduced them, and they felt this was undervalued by it being read (badly) by the registrar.

I have had the pleasure of doing one legal wedding, in Scotland, and I must say that it felt fantastic to bring these 2 elements together.

When I am working with a couple, I always explain the issues about legality, timing etc. I always seem to have to explain that they can do the legal bit, if that's what they want, at any time before or after their Humanist weddings, as I have come across many examples of registrars saying they have to do the wedding with them first. In addition, very few Councils make the cheap, statutory option clear on their website, and they offer only a ridiculously small number. So for instance a couple whose Humanist ceremony I conducted in August this year could not get an appointment for the statutory option till October.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Well, as it happened we were already legally married, so this is not really applicable.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As explained above, we did also have a legally binding wedding, but your initial question does not throw up "both" as an option.

As far as my work as a Humanist celebrant is concerned, the majority of the couples I work with do chose also to have a civil marriage. But they have chosen a Humanist Ceremony because it matched their beliefs and values, and want a celebrant who also shares their beliefs and values, somewhere meaningful to them. At present it is impossible to have a legal wedding in England which meets these criteria. They don't want to do the civil marriage too, but they are forced to to get legal recognition.

There are many couples who have only a civil marriage but would prefer to have a humanist marriage, if they were legally recognised. They can't afford to have both (bearing in mind my earlier point about the cheap statutory ceremonies, these are often not easily available.) The growth in Humanist ceremonies in Scotland demonstrates this.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a in my case, since we opted for legal marriage too.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Humanism is a recognised belief in the same way as Christianity, Quakers and Jews are recognised beliefs. Yet unlike these, Humanist couples can't have a legal wedding conducted by someone who shares their belief. There is no Humanist content in civil ceremonies, any more than there is religious content. Civil ceremonies are simply secular, not Humanist. And the importance of significant places cannot be overlooked. Being able to get married in the garden of a much loved family home, or perhaps in woodland, or on a beach, is a wonderful thing but at present not legal.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

While obviously the priority has been to keep people safe, the often-changing regulations, which have caused problems for everyone planning a wedding in 2021, are compounded for Humanist couples because most of them will have had to plan 2 ceremonies, one civil, one Humanist. This means that 2 ceremonies, not 1, have had to be rearranged. Of my original 2020 bookings, all were postponed or in one sad case cancelled completely. The one wedding I did conduct in 2020 was however a great example of a Humanist ceremony at its best. The couple were deeply committed to the environment, and to craft ales and ciders, and they found a lovely space in a cider orchard, which also offered glamping so the wedding party could stay overnight. The bride's family were in the States or in Europe so unable to travel, and so we had about 20 guests physically present, and another 15 or so joining from wherever they were on Zoom. Thanks to some good technical wizardry, the tablet they were on was linked up to decent speakers, so several of them were able to contribute readings, as well as seeing everything that happened. It was a beautiful ceremony, with the couple's 3 children playing an active part, and celebrated the blending of the two families as well as the wedding of the couple.

Looking forward to next year, I am advising couples to think in terms of a venue which is under their control, like a family garden, so that they do not have the problems of cancelling and rescheduling a formal venue, if it should come to that.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No views, though of course Humanist celebrants typical start working with couples many months ahead.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this could save people a lot of problems

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In theory, yes, though who makes the judgement as to whether they might be exposed to a risk of harm, and what evidence might they have to produce to prove this?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the kind of timeframe within which we usually work anyway.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One of the advantages of being part of a network like Humanists UK is that this is something we can offer. It rarely happens, but just occasionally illness or accident might prevent the celebrant attending. In these cases we can guarantee that another celebrant with the same value system will step in.

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Although the French system of all weddings being preceded by civil preliminaries is very attractive, I cannot see this being popular in England, so am not arguing for it.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That's all LEGAL weddings, presumably.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any reason to maintain the requirement to have a registrar at some religious marriages. This creates unhelpful confusion.

In relation to paragraphs 5.58-9, it should of course be the case that civil registrars are debarred from officiating at humanist marriages, as well as religious ones.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a move in the right direction. The status of marriages should not depend on the buildings in which they take place, as it discriminates against people who don't have places of worship. Nomination by suitably recognised belief organisations like religious bodies and organisations is far more appropriate.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The law should simply refer to those beliefs that are relevantly protected under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights – as these, after all, are the beliefs that the UK has a legal duty to extend recognition to. The approved organisations should have as their main function the advancement of their belief system - otherwise there is a danger that bogus organisations will spring up which are effectively commercial organisations pretending to be belief organisations. Organisations need to be committed to beliefs which are appropriate in a democratic society, mindful of the human rights of others, and in line with the Equality Act of 2010.

The use of "secular" is confusing in this context and does not provide an effective definition. Gardening societies and chess clubs are (usually) secular, but we would not support them performing marriages. Better to stick to "religion and belief" organisations as the defining quality.

I therefore support the Humanists UK proposed formulation: 'non-religious beliefs that attain the necessary level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion, and importance to attract protection under the Convention Rights and, further, are worthy of respect in a democratic society, are compatible with human dignity, and do not conflict with the fundamental rights of others'

Please share your views below:

Surely it would be better to have a strong definition of what DOES making to a non-religious belief organisation? If new beliefs or philosophies emerge in the future they can then be measured against this definition.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 members is far too low a number. It would allow, for example, individuals who has been rejected by training providers, or who did not wish to train, and were only interested in providing weddings for their own financial gain, to make common cause with other such individuals and brand themselves with a title which implied that they were aligned with a religion or belief organisation.

It might be desirable for a small number of people who meet regularly for worship or in furtherance of their beliefs to be used as a criterion for licensing certain buildings, but for national accreditation a much higher bar needs to be set, including being an organisation which has been going for a certain length or time, having a certain number of supporters (preferably in the 1000s), having a registered office, perhaps being a registered charity even - there are many potential requirements that could be put in place, and there are models which already exist in other countries.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I'd agree with unlawful as a criterion, but "contrary to public policy or morality" is far too broad and lays the marriage process open to political manipulation.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No views. Humanists UK celebrants are all subject to rigorous training and peer review, therefore only nominating named individuals would apply.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

With the proposed widening of the role of registrars, so that ceremonies can be conducted in unregistered locations, and with more flexible content, I can not see why this should be necessary. Commercial officiants who are neither registrars, nor working with a religious or belief organisation, would commercialise the market and add nothing to what is proposed. This model does not exist anywhere in Europe outside the channel islands, and could lead to a Las Vegas type approach to marriage, lacking in all dignity and significance. Already we are aware of commercial celebrants who claim to conduct "humanist" or "religious" ceremonies, without any training, and without holding appropriate beliefs. Couples who are deceived by these claims run the risk of having a substandard ceremony on their special day. The regulation of this would place a huge burden on the Registrar General - presumably it would be necessary to check paperwork, to require regular review, and indeed to have celebrants observed?

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



I agree with this in principle, but also think that the Registrar General should be able to refuse to register nominated celebrants if they do not consider them to be "fit and proper".

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If commercial celebrants were allowed to conduct legal ceremonies, yes all this would be necessary. But the operation of such a scheme would be cumbersome and expensive. Who would provide the training, and how would that be validated? How would the CPD be provided? We do all this as Humanists UK, of course, but we rely on having a training programme which has been developed over years, and on our network of celebrants to provide peer reviews etc. You would be creating a whole new industry here!

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists UK celebrants currently operate under this system in Northern Ireland and so do Humanist Society Scotland (HSS) celebrants in Scotland. It works well and does not prevent the celebrants from charging a reasonable fee for their work, reflecting the time and effort put into crafting a humanist ceremony, but does stop profiteering, including people charging exorbitant fees or trying to profit off ancillary activities by exploiting their position as officiants.

Humanist ceremonies involve much more work than those provided by registrars or most religious organisation. In all those cases, there is a set ceremony which may or may not be varied and personalised to some degree. This is not true of humanist ceremonies. Every one is written from scratch, and may require several meetings with the couple, and a great deal of research to provide all the elements needed.

In addition, as the cost of living varies around the country, so does what we charge for ceremonies.

For these reasons, GUIDANCE on fee levels has proved useful in Scotland I believe, but a set fee band would be most unhelpful.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that commercial celebrants should be able to do legal marriages, so don't agree. However, if they did, allowing them to make unlimited profits can only be good for them, and bad for couples.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And this for me is at the heart of the matter. A phrase I often use in ceremonies is: "One of the most important choices we can make in life is to marry. It is the closest of partnerships and the most significant of contracts. By entering into the state of marriage we are creating one of those small building blocks of which society is made up."

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as long as it is not too prescriptive. The couple should be able to dictate the nature of the ceremony, as long as it is consistent with dignity and legality.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists UK are rigorous in selecting people for training, and have robust systems for full accreditation and peer review. It is therefore unlikely that the General Register Office would have to take this action with Humanist celebrants.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No, because I don't believe commercial celebrants should be able to perform legal marriages.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this simply demonstrates the amount of administration that would be necessary if commercial celebrants are able to carry out legal marriages. How would this compliance be monitored and enforced? Again, Humanists UK have robust systems for this, starting with the requirement that celebrants regularly report on the CPD they have done, by providing an annual celebrant conference and regional and local CPD opportunities, and refresher courses for celebrants who trained some time ago. This requires a great deal of both paid and voluntary activity.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, though in respect of point 2, I assume the recommendation is not that every detail of every ceremony is submitted. Every Humanist ceremony is different, so I assume "submitting details" relates to a general approach to the moment of marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is too loosely drawn. It does not properly consider what is significant about civil, religious, and humanist ceremonies, or the proper role of the state in providing marriages.

The state should not be able to include religion or belief in its ceremonies, as this might be seen as "establishing" or endorsing that religion and belief. A civil marriage should be uniquely available for those who do not feel strongly about religion or belief.

However, there is a distinction between an inclusion which represents an Act of Worship (such as the celebrant saying the Lord's Prayer) and the inclusion

of some kind of religious reference because it's important to the couple in context. The Humanists UK's practice note on religion in humanist ceremonies specifies that 'Our ceremonies are non-religious but we recognise that there are aspects of religious reference embedded in our culture and day-to-day experiences. For example, certain hymns can remind people of their youth or even of their favourite rugby team. We are happy to include this sort of content where it helps to reflect the [parties], but not as an act of worship.'. There is no reason why civil ceremonies should not take a similar approach.

We are already concerned about the "mix and match" approach adopted by commercial celebrants who claim to mix in a bit of religion or belief, without themselves having that belief or being trained in the implications. This could be further encouraged by the approach suggested.

Please share your views below:

As above. If the couple want to include such content, they should be able to explain the context, and it should not in any way be an act of worship. A skilled officiant should be able to give appropriate advice. For instance, if a couple said to me that they had a religious relative who wanted to do a reading, I would suggest that they look at 1 Corinthians 13:1, which, although it comes from the bible, speaks of love rather than a god.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given that many Humanist ceremonies are conducted in private homes, as the place most significant to the couple, this would be difficult to maintain without putting property and privacy at risk.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

(though with some caveats below, and excluding any groups who are licenced only to perform ceremonies in a particular building.

This is particularly important to us as Humanist celebrants, as every aspect of the ceremony should be meaningful to the couple. Although I do perform some ceremonies in formal wedding venues, like hotels and stately homes, probably the majority are in places which are particularly meaningful to the couple, and are often not licensed venues. So, for instance:

- \* Family homes and gardens, sometimes with a bitter-sweet element of also remembering a family member who has died

- \* The place where the proposal happened

- \* At one of the couple's business premises (I did a very remarkable one at a dressage centre, and another in a field behind a reclamation business, with the guests sitting on a vast assembly of chairs from the business.

- \* In a place which is relevant to the couple's hobbies and interests (a nature reserve, a cider orchard etc.)

These choices add greatly to the significance of the event.

Please share your views below:

The point for humanist celebrants is that the venue should be meaningful. Examples 2 and 3 would be unusual, but certainly not impossible, were the couple for example people who worked on the water or in the air. There might be health and safety considerations to be taken into account, but then I prepare a risk assessment for all my ceremonies anyway, since there can be hazards associated with anywhere that is being used for a new purpose. For me, though, it must be possible to maintain the dignity of the event, so the setting needs to be relatively quiet and private at the time of the ceremony. This is not always guaranteed in registered venues - I have ceremonies almost ruined by clattering and banging from the kitchen in a pub venue, for instance.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't civil or non-religious ceremonies should be held in active religious or non-religious-belief venues. There is only one of the latter in the country, I think, Conway Hall. It would confuse things and muddy the waters. But the wording needs tightening up here because theoretically anywhere could be a "non-religious belief" venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Why is there no "other" option here?

What does "responsible" mean in this context and what would happen if the celebrant got it wrong? I have been in situations where I have given guidance on the potential safety of a venue, or location within a venue often, but that is not the same as being "responsible". Assuming that there will be some guidance issued in relation to any final schemes, advising that a risk assessment is good practice would be welcomed.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In relation to "dignified" the answer is undoubtedly yes - which doesn't mean the ceremony can't be fun or joyful. Because for Humanists working with a couple is an iterative process, any issues can be ironed out along the way. I remember one of my colleagues, for instance, agreeing to officiate at an Alice-in-Wonderland themed wedding, but refusing to do this dressed as the White Rabbit (or any other character), as this would undermine the dignity of the event.

However, in terms of safety, those issues surely fall to the venue, be it a formal venue such as a hotel or state home, or a private house. If the wedding is taking place in public space, the issues can become more difficult, and a humanist celebrant would normally visit such a venue with the couple in advance to identify any likely risks. As mentioned above, I would always do a risk assessment, but I would not take a personal responsibility for the venue being safe.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The "yes" here relates to safely - see my earlier remarks about risk assessments.

The question of dignity is more subjective, however, and only the most general of advice should be given. The wedding I did at the reclamation yard could have been assumed by some to be undignified (if you characterised it as a scrapyard). It was, however, one of the most beautiful weddings I have ever conducted, under an ancient oak hung with white ribbons. The ability to make appropriate choices is one of the many things that a belief organisation like Humanists UK can offer, and would be hard to assess if commercial celebrants were allowed to conduct legal ceremonies.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This might be desirable for safety, though again I think that "dignity" takes us on to dangerous ground, and I am not sure how it would be assessed except by the celebrant.

Please share your views below:

That's the problem! Perhaps local authorities charging a small fee? In an optional system, venues would presumably only ask for this if they thought it increased their market value.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

This would be made considerably easier if weddings could happen anywhere.

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although option 3 is far from ideal, the events of the last year demonstrate why they might be required. I referred earlier to a ceremony I did where several of the guests were on Zoom, and this worked perfectly well.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't imagine that this would often arise, but, given that it is desirable for the venue to be meaningful to the couple, it could occasionally be the choice of people who work at sea or have a sea-going hobby. I suppose the minimum would be that the boat should be registered and normally docked in England.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand why they would not also give the name of the officiant. Identifying an officiant would surely be a vital part of the pre-planning.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why non-religious-belief celebrants should not be able to do this. I have been taken abroad by couples to conduct (at present non-legal) ceremonies, why not be taken out on a boat?

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not support the idea of commercial officiants, so do not support this either. This could lead to major commercialism and possibly lack of dignity. I can imagine that "wedding party cruises" or trips could become a new strand of the wedding business, and not a particularly dignified or safe one.

No

Please expand on your answer:

see previous comments

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No comment on religious weddings.

Yes, as above, I do see a potential (though infrequent) role for non-religious belief weddings in international waters. Why not?

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a choice that some may wish to exercise.

A cheap civil wedding option must remain available. A large majority of couples currently having a humanist wedding also have a civil marriage in order to gain legal recognition, in spite of not wanting to do so.

At present, those having a Humanist ceremony can find it hard to access the cheapest statutory wedding option, which is often not on the websites and not mentioned by registrars to person callers. This seems to be financially driven, and particularly penalises those wanting a Humanist wedding.

It should be prescribed that:

- ☐ Registrars must make known the availability of the minimum-fee option, wherever they advertise that other options are available;
- ☐ Registrars must make such ceremonies generally available, across all days of the week, and in a wider range of registration offices (perhaps even all);
- ☐ Registrars must not be able to restrict who attends such a ceremony, beyond what physical space allows, or what niceties such ceremonies might contain, beyond what is necessary for the punctual running of the ceremony.

The need for such legislation would be less acute were humanist marriages legally recognised.

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above, I would agree in relation to safety but have some concerns as to how a local authority might define dignity, except in obvious cases (e.g. strip clubs)

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes very much so! This would end the current situation where costs, particularly at weekends, are hugely inflated beyond what is reasonable.

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This would presumably only apply to commercial celebrants, so I don't think it should happen anyway.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I am aware of couples who have chosen not to get married at all, because they wanted a legal humanist wedding and could not face either the cost, or the inconvenience, of having to have two ceremonies.

The experience in Scotland demonstrates that legalising Humanist marriage leads not just to a rise in Humanist marriages, but to a rising number of weddings overall.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. These costs, additional on the cost of a Humanist wedding, can put couples off having a legal wedding, or having a wedding at all. As mentioned several times above, registrars do not make the cheapest options known to clients, and can raise all sorts of illegitimate barriers and concerns. One couple were told, for instance, that they could not have their register office wedding after their Humanist ceremony, it had to be before, which is complete nonsense. I often have to support couples in sorting these issues out.
2. Approved premises are almost all expensive, and often require couples to commit to extra costs, such as the catering. There are few approved premises, round me [REDACTED] at least, which allow couples to marry on a "DIY" basis, and they are booked up far ahead.
3. No views
4. This can be a much better bet for couples, and is something I explore with couples who have not yet fixed their venues. The Covid situation has demonstrated that it can also put couples more in control of how and when the ceremony happens. The only disadvantage at present is the need for that additional, register office ceremony
5. As above. The register office wedding costs are an unfortunate and unnecessary tax on Humanist couples.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. As above, if register office weddings are required, the cheap, basic option should be far more widely available, and more fully advertised
2. These savings would be considerable, but even more important is the opportunity to marry in an appropriate and meaningful setting
3. As above.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



At present, if couples want registration to happen on the same day or in the same place as their Humanist weddings, the costs can be astronomical. In Kent, for instance, registrars charge £675 to coming out at a weekend to a registered venue, even though they are delivering essentially the same ceremony each time, which is more than most Humanist celebrants charge for a ceremony which they have been working on for many months. the legalisation of Humanist weddings would be a welcome cost-saver

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There are many opportunities for venues who do not want to go through the current registration scheme, either because they do not meet some of the criteria, or because they do not do weddings often enough to pay the annual fees. There are many places where I have done weddings which would make great venues, but would not currently wish to apply for registration, not least because some of the wilder ones would not want to erect suitable structures. There are great business opportunities here. As mentioned above, the Scottish experience seems to show that the legalisation of Humanist weddings leads to a rise in the overall number of weddings.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. It is not uncommon for Humanist couples to travel to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Jersey to get married. Indeed there is even a hashtag: #elopetoscotland associated with this. So under the current circumstances, England and Wales lose out on business.
2. This would become more attractive if legal humanist marriage were available.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. If commercial celebrants were allowed to conduct legal marriages there would be considerable cost to the Registrar General's Office in connection with approving training, accreditation and the maintenance of standards. This could be avoided by only recognising bona-fide, established organisations such as Humanists UK
2. The proposals would be largely beneficial to businesses
3. The proposals would be highly beneficial to Humanists UK
4. I do not agree with the proposal to allow commercial ("independent") officiants to conduct legal marriages. If they were, there would obviously be benefits to the officiants, but I fail to see what benefits there would be to couples.
5. the proposals could result in a considerable cost-saving for couples, and would broaden the options available particularly to those on lower incomes.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJ1-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 15:49:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage that is recognised by the law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

There should be time for enquiries to be made

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

They should take place in person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If that has been the case before I would agree to leaving it

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would go to a wider audience

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not many people would hear it

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree. Marriage is a serious business and the information should be checked thoroughly and each person should be able to speak honestly about their reasons for marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes it is important for everything to be done in the open

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see why not

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure what are the consequences of that. In our church we have 2 people trained to be registrars to officiate at weddings held in the church

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure if that is what happens now or not

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

how would this protect against really bizarre beliefs which are not compatible with the solemnity of the occasion

Please share your views below:

Yes there should eg political types of organisations like Nazis. Also witches and satanists and other types of demonic beliefs, voodoo etc

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be something bigger than 20 members otherwise it could be the Monster Raving Looney party

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Most certainly.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes but they should still be vetted

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should but the final decision should not be with them

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of all the connotations of this

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of all the facts involved in this

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proposed duty, but it does not go far enough. Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but others ought to be able to go above them if they are concerned

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. Please state that this risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made. The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I want to emphasise again the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because

it is appropriate for such a significant event. The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the rings and many other fanciful types of themes which are inappropriate to a solemn , legal occasion, like people dressed as star Wars characters in a court of law

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be specific wording that establishes a legal contract in any marriage ceremony no matter what religion or belief or lack of either. First and foremost marriage is a legal contract; when it becomes just the specific wishes of the couple themselves it will soon become even easier to terminate it and will contribute to the further breakdown of society today.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Very difficult to say

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There may be occasions when this is necessary

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I want to reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but I want to express caution that this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

For instance for couples having ceremonies “in the air”, meaning the safe and dignified test doesn’t seem too hard to meet. Would weddings also be allowed in McDonald’s?

• Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony should be accessible to members of the public on all occasions

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If all other criteria are met

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That would contradict some of my previous answers

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about the meaning of the question

Please share your views below:

Not sure

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be in both languages

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses and the marriage should be registered

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is not a legal contract

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds like Henry 8th to me

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

These situations should be exceptions to some of the other rules

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of all the effects of this

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only in a state of emergency

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They need to also give the name of the officiant

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Maybe there is

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that if a couple genuinely wants to make a legally binding contract that the present laws are sufficient

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can see that if you have to have 2 separate services it will increase the cost so in certain cases it will be beneficial to have a celebrant who is able to travel to a suitable venue

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This is ok if the venue is suitable for the solemnity of the occasion

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDZA-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 16:09:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Make it at least two weeks to give time for any problems to be sorted

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews are necessary to make sure that sham marriages and marriages of convenience do not happen

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If this has worked well in the past then let it stand

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is necessary in case any member of the public has information that would make the marriage a sham.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Substitute Officiants should only be able to act if the name Officiant is suddenly unable to carry out the service

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns are read three times in an Anglican Church and this should continue to happen. As a Church is a place for public to attend, then this should be sufficient

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Both 1 and 2 should be adhered to, to prevent sham and marriages of convenience

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both people wishing to be married should attend and make separate declarations

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

As the Church of England is a public place, there is no reason to have civil preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't Registrars have to attend other church nomination weddings. This should continue.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Official Registrars should attend all weddings apart from Church of England and Wales services

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, this needs to be expanded upon, to make sure that the Officiant has a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.  
The proposals should be defined as to what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. Ceremonies taking place "in the air" are not compatible with dignity and solemnity, and the standards need to be higher otherwise they will be too easy to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. A person just signing a schedule is not enough. It cannot be proper if people say anything the like or nothing at all. Public declarations whether in church or elsewhere, make the marriage binding, to take this away would lead to undermining the solemnity of marriage.

At the moment there is plenty of flexibility with a wedding ceremony so there is no need to change it. As long as the prescribed words are used, couples already have the chance to add things.

Surely expecting couples to use certain specific phrases is not too much, to show that both parties consent to a lifetime commitment.

Couples being allowed to completely personalise their ceremony gives the wrong idea of marriage. These words have been used for centuries and is the basis of a true union. Society acknowledges that the couple have made a declaration within the law, otherwise it becomes like a leisure activity.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony is a serious and lawful bond. Just because a couple want to have a ceremony a certain way, cannot be the reason it should take place. A marriage service has to be appropriate under the law.

A couple cannot be allowed to choose what they want as it gives the wrong impression of marriage, which is a solemn and dignified event. A wedding ceremony is a legally binding service and a public declaration of a lifetime commitment.

There have already been unofficial wedding ceremonies with such themes as James Bond, Flash Gordon with some couples dressed as hedgehogs. This totally undermines the seriousness of wedding vows. If these proposals are successful then any number of "Official" weddings could become the norm, once again threatens the sanctity of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

By repealing the "open doors" requirement it would do away with idea that weddings are a lawfully binding declaration of two people within the public domain.

The "open doors" requirement has been in existence for hundreds of years to protect against forced and sham marriages. This is still a problem in our society today.

By removing this requirement, it takes away the public part of a wedding service and encourages it to be a private affair without accepting the dignity and commitment of marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To allow wedding ceremonies to take place anywhere, will take the seriousness and solemnity from a marriage. Who will make these decisions, each person will have a different view about what is "dignified and safe".

Marriage is a lawful, legally binding service which by definition means serious and solemn, and just because a couple want to get married in Burger King does not mean it should be permitted. Does this mean that underwater or jumping from a plane would be allowed, if so, where is the seriousness and dignity which is needed for couple to show their commitment to a lifetime bond.

It could mean inappropriate places being used where the solemnity of marriage is usurped by the everyday.

Please share your views below:

It is inappropriate to allow inland waters, up in the air or private homes. As long as the outdoors is sympathetic with the solemnity of the service, then that maybe permitted.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be in the public domain

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once places have been decided upon in law, then the officiant will not be needed to decide.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.  
One officiant's idea of dignified and safe, might well be different from another

Other

Please expand on your answer:

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed and certain criteria must be put in place.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The absence of a witness or the failure to sign a schedule must make a marriage void, otherwise sham or fraudulent marriages could take place

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would say yes, but there is no time scale for this. If someone is terminally ill, then time is of the essence.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

if this was allowed, just ships as Ferries and Sailing boats could become the norm, which does away with solemnity and safe.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously the need for the Officiant should be named alongside the name and registration number of the ship.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJQ-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 16:27:20

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In theory yes but in reality no - remote interviews will be open to abuse with young women being coerced into a force marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes continue with this

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are easy to find and personal details have been confirmed

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There needs to be an official mechanism for appointing a substitute officiant, to avoid the process being abused

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No reason given for this proposal

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:



With the church's permission they can be published in another Anglican church

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

They sound sensible measures

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This would need detailed clarification - it assumes the Law is perfect and organisations should never seek to change it.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clear definitions of dignity and solemnity needed - and these should be high standards, not things that can be achieved with minimal effort

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if the proposal in Q38 is implemented

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be some sort of periodic review/renewal process to ensure officiants continue to be competent

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple must both be present at the ceremony (and at the preliminaries).

Couples must be required to make formal public declarations as part of the ceremony - marriage is a serious commitment and should not be trivialised according to fashion or taste.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - couples should not have free reign over every aspect of the ceremony, marriage is a serious commitment which should be recognised in the ceremony. If the ceremony is self-defined then it loses its value and importance as a social institution and expression of lifelong commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No reason given for this proposal

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access to weddings must be maintained, they are a social expression of commitment, not a private matter.  
This requirement was introduced many years ago as a protection against forced marriage - this is still a significant issue

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and should not be trivialised. Any venue authorised to hold weddings must recognise this and be open to public access.

Please share your views below:

Any venue used must be open to public access which rules out in the air and private homes.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding locations must be publicly accessible to mitigate the problem of forced marriages and to allow people to see the ceremony recognises the importance of the marriage commitment

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds like an attempt to limit the freedom of religion - no reason is given for these proposals

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They would need clear and objective criteria to make the decision

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Clear definitions are needed for safe and dignified. In addition they should have to ensure the location is publicly accessible and the event communicated locally in advance.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clear definitions are needed for safe and dignified.

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Make it sensible and not overly bureaucratic

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure - no reason given for this proposal

### Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English only otherwise this will cause problems in future when other organisations need to check a marriage certificate

### Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if this is in addition to the marriage certificate. Should be optional as it would be an obvious target for fraudsters

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No view

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Don't make the process onerous or lengthy

### Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No reason given for this proposal

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes only if the power to use these provisions is limited to very rare and specific circumstances

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes only if the power to use these provisions is limited to very rare and specific circumstances

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as long as there is an independent authorisation (e.g. GP) to confirm risk of death

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These venues are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These venues are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

These venues are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These venues are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such officiants should not be used as these venues are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such officiants should not be used as these venues are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such officiants should not be used as these venues are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Such venues should not be used as they are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such venues should not be used as they are not publicly accessible and would carry an enhanced risk of facilitating forced marriages

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds like such people would be charged twice - why not include an element of this cost in the standard fee paid by everybody so that any additional charge would be minimal

### Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Any additional fee should be kept to a minimum

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Any such fee should be kept to a minimum

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No view

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Ships are not suitable for weddings as they are not publicly accessible

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Ships are not suitable for weddings as they are not publicly accessible

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No view



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXS-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 16:40:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The phrase "public policy or morality" is exceedingly vague and lacks definition. There is no generally accepted "public morality" so organisations could be banned for simply because they espouse unfashionable beliefs. Certainly organisations should not be permitted to nominate officials if they promote unlawful purposes.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This includes both their own behaviour - (for example, not appearing as in some frivolous comic book outfit to a themed occasion) and also the dignity and solemnity of the marriage occasion itself. If the occasion is clearly dressed up in some frivolous fashion then that is inappropriate. It is difficult to provide guidance as to what is and what is not appropriate to the dignity and solemnity of the occasion that two people make a solemn contract for life but some definition should be attempted to help the officiant.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although there should be some general oversight of marriages such that if a body or organisation supports marriage occasions on a regular basis which do not provide an appropriate format for the solemnisation of serious vows (as in 35 above) then this should be brought to the attention of the General Register Office such that it may be examined whether the nominating organisation has understood the duties of officiating at marriage.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As response to 37

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As response to Q37

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not clear from this that both parties should be present (e.g. one could just give written consent from a distance).

A marriage ceremony should include the public declaration of promises made by each party to the other. Such promises should be unambiguous and easily understood by both parties and by those witnessing the occasion. For this reason it is appropriate that some recognised phrases be used to prevent ambiguity and aid such a clear declaration. There is already considerable flexibility in the marriage ceremony and the phrases used. There is no advantage and potential for considerable future problems if the promises made are not clear. Hence a minimum of essential phraseology should be retained. Otherwise, if any wording can be used the whole affair can end up being trivialised which is not in accord with the "dignity and solemnity" mentioned above.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of the occasion do need to be retained and also some degree of order such that it is clear to the assembled witnesses when the vows are being made. Themed weddings should not extend to trivialising the making of the vows and degrading the "dignity and solemnity" of promises made for a lifelong commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Given the sad cases of forced marriages which still occur, it is essential that marriage ceremonies should be made public events.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue should be public (as above) so should be able to accommodate public witnessing and conducive to the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. They should not be at the whim of the couple being married but appropriate to the occasion.

Please share your views below:

Marriage outdoors should be permitted providing the vows can be clearly heard by the witnesses. Marriages taking place in private homes or on inland waters can satisfy the need for public witnessing but this could be limited by space so some venues may not be appropriate. Getting married in the air would normally provide even less space and would normally not be open to the public so would be inappropriate.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, appropriate guidance should be issued so that the safety and dignity tests can be applied by the officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would simply assist in the choosing of venues.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Expressing consent to the marriage, witnessed by the public, is the core of the marriage so failure to do this should result in the marriage not qualifying. This makes the question of using appropriate phrases to consent to marriage essential (see response to Q42).

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXX-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 17:02:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a married man, married to a woman

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Why is there any requirement to speed up this - the most important decision one can make in their life time? Surely we should advise couples to ensure months or years are taken up with an engagement period to ensure the spouse is the right person for the other partner before entering into a marriage.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Why the rush. Where is the provision for face to face discussions with a third party to guard against any likelihood of sham or forced marriages to take place?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

no view

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No view

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no view

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of what the issues are

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would have suggested the banns be read in the nearest Anglican church under such extreme circumstances as war damage

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As now, banns should be read in the parish where each party reside

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agreed. This is an excellent safeguard

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn ceremony, ideally a life long union (between one man and one woman) overseen by Almighty God.

If people want to live together then why is it called Marriage?

Better to invent a new word to avoid confusion about a couple marital status

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Please share your views below:

I do not fell there should be a list

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Impossible to answer unless you are willing to define 'morality' and 'public policy'.  
One man's morality is another man's evil!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No strong view

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand why the parties should not be required to express that there is no impediment to their marrying each other during the ceremony. What if they lied in the preliminaries? Might not somebody be more likely to speak up during the service if the parties then, as now, said publically that they do not believe there is any such impediment?

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely there must be a form of universally accepted words, as in a Church service for example. Are you seriously proposing that each couple could write the entire service from start to finish with as many or as few words as they wish. How is this ensuring the ceremony is conducted with dignity and solemnity?

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly disagree. It is profoundly disingenuous to scrap rules for Anglican, Jewish or Quaker weddings and also I believe the Faith group and its officiating officer have some say in whether a couple is entitled to be married by that Faith group.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

no view

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On what grounds?

For what reason?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why this proposal??

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has been a solemn and dignified service for centuries and rightly so. Why all of a sudden do we want to make it as liberal as possible and potentially strip it of any dignity?

Please share your views below:

Please reconsider these alien ideas!

Marriages should by their very nature be solemn but joyful and emotional occasions, not some open-air frivolity!

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no comment

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe witnesses are essential as an opportunity to safeguard the couple from some kind of scam or coercion to marry

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

On the case of the clause 'but should not require the couple to have cohabited for any period after its celebration' I would suggest this should only apply where one of the marriage partners dies soon after the ceremony since surely the purpose of marriage is to cohabit and not live apart!?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

no views

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no view

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no comment

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No limit

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

would need time to discuss and consider pros and cons

No

Please expand on your answer:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult to answer

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand why

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What is the benefit, other than commercial?

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Can we stay with the status quo please

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

I don't agree with all this marriage on ships...

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I can't imagine why

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Let's forget this whole topic shall we?

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no view either way

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If that's what they want

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure as to the benefit

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no view

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am not in favour of encouraging marriage for the sake of it.

Marriage is something that people should enter into as a union for life. They should do so after recognising it is something that since the beginning of time was a religious service and is something that should be conducted with dignity and solemnity, not a party in the outdoors or on some cruise ship that can be ended due to boredom!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no strong views on this

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

no view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Item 4. So we want to encourage more weddings so businesses can make more money? Whose idea is this??

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

unknown to me

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion or experience

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion or experience

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion or experience

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no opinion or experience

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

no opinion or experience

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFX8-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 17:10:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

A personal reponse - not an organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Confidentiality is not necessary

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am officially married.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No barriers

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have watched a wedding of some close friends on Zoom.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At least one of the couple should be known in the area, preferably by living there.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some kind of meaningful conversation for both persons, with the registrar before the actual ceremony.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in-person interview must be the norm, so that any participant in a sham or forced marriage has the theoretical possibility of alerting the authorities.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No view on this

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public act, which affects society, so the public should aware that a particular marriage is going to take place.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is still the United Kingdom, so this should not be changed.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a minor issue, and there is no need to change the law.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The wider the publication, the better.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Certainly, if this is the only scrutiny.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. People should not tell lies, especially about such an important matter. Society depends on the stability of marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Clergy in the Church of England or Wales have a responsible and respected role in society. As such, they are suitable people for such a duty.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If, for example, Methodists marry in a Methodist church, then they will make vows before God, in accordance with Methodist practice and beliefs. They will still need the marriage to be recognised by the state, so the registrar is necessary.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present status quo does not need changing.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is there really any demand for this? Is there not a danger of weakening the bond of marriage, if too many different groups start to define their view of an ancient institution?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

??????

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

?????

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is there already a list of such people?

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Since marriage is the backbone of successful society, any officiants should be mature and respected members of their local community.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:



There should be some upper limit on the fees payable.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The location in which the ceremony takes place must be suitable for a major step in the lives of the couple. Town Halls, Conference centres, may provide a suitable venue, but it is easy to imagine frivolous locations which would not uphold the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. The nature of the location needs to be specified.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The emphasis needs to be on the solemnity of the occasion, since marriage is the backbone of a successful society. After the ceremony, there will be plenty of time for frivolity. Surgeons can play all sorts of silly games in their free time, but while performing an operation, they pay close attention to the grave significance of what they are doing. In the same way, the wedding reception can be a time for jokes and silliness, but the ceremony must convey the significance of lifelong commitment.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Ideally, yes, unless the organisation itself fails in the supervision of its officials.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There could be a proposed "retirement age" beyond which the overseeing authority could extend the role.

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no valid reason for this change, and in fact it is good that they be required to express vocally their consent to be married to each other and also audibly affirming that there is no impediment to their marrying each other.

This is a public act before witnesses and other people in the room. I can see no need for this proposed change. As members of society they are stating publicly their commitment to each other, which is serious, and intended to be permanent. They may wish to add other statements, but the two items above are essential.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple are able to indulge all their personal wishes at the reception, with all the bells and whistles they can conjure up, but the official wedding ceremony is a serious matter, which affects all of society. We all have an interest in successful marriages, which are the backbone of society. To cheapen the ceremony, as if it were Strictly Come Dancing, is a serious threat to our society.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On what grounds should this section be repealed?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there are such things as "forced marriages" isn't this requirement for "open doors" one of the protections against marrying under duress? We know that there are forced marriages, so let's keep them the ceremony as open as possible!

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a social contract which needs to take place where the "public" can see what is happening, since it concerns them. There are many locations, be it churches, synagogues, mosques and local government premises, etc, where marriages can already take place. If the field is wide open, there may be ridiculous venues. There must be some kind of constraint on suitability for something which is so fundamental to our society.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors is impractical, in the UK as the weather is unpredictable; on lakes or rivers prevents the "public" from access to this important event. In the air and in private homes is also unsuitable, as the public will not be able to witness this important contract.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is vital.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is too important for society as a whole for a wedding to take place in a location which does not respect the official and social aspect of marriage. It is not a frivolous action, but an important contract which involves society as a whole. An officiant may be under pressure from the persons involved with the wedding - be it the couple or other people - to approve a location which is not fitting for the nature of the marriage contract.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not at all clear what "safe" and "dignified" mean in this context. Officiants should not have the responsibility to approve venues, because of the pressure likely to be involved in seeking the approval of an unsuitable venue.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever the definition, there will be ways to circumvent the intentions. This just makes the officiants job much harder.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This is too complicated to work successfully

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only when infrastructure is in place to provide a high level of security.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be a record of the witnesses, the appropriate documents must be signed, and the marriage registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One of the purposes of marriage is cohabitation, so there needs to be a valid reason for the failure of the couple to cohabit.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The needs of the couple must be taken into consideration, and especially those of any children.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

more haste, less speed.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should this be allowed? is this a whim? A fad? There are many suitable venues available for weddings. On land.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why??

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

There is no need for such weddings

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Such weddings are not necessary, and need not take place.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings at sea need not happen.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should take place on land, in appropriate buildings, and the paperwork can be dealt with normally.

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should not be necessary.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There does not seem to be any evidence that the present law prevents couples from getting married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDV-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 17:19:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This does not recognise the integrity of the church

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This has great dangers to freedom of speech and thought subjecting it arbitrary decisions by officials or the courts

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No for the sake of clarity and competence individual nomination is appropriate

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be a statutory scale for performing the wedding as it is as a matter for the state as well as the individuals concerned

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should include responsibility for the ceremony as a whole

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be joint with the Chief Registrar

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The declaration of lack of impediments is an integral part of the act of marriage the preliminaries are merely to check their absence. Marriage should be complete when the participants give their consent to each other and in each others presence, unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances. The signing of the register is merely confirmation of the event

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A prayer asking for god's blessing for example after the consent has been given

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

wedding is a public matter and freedom of access should always be given hence the need for designation

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see 47

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

The others do not allow a public ceremony

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

this not an individual matter he should confirm authorisation but not give it

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be their responsibility to confirm but not give approval, other than confirming guidelines have been met

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is similar to the above but it should be determine rather than give guidance

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

notice of actual approval from the venue is sufficient and presumption therefore unnecessary

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

mother and father are necessary for proper and useful genealogical records

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Reasonable discouragement of impulsive or insincere vows will inevitably lead to the further instability and downgrading of marriage

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

mostly counterproductive apart possibly in terms of monetary cost

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDB1-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 18:11:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Christian

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Divorced

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No more widely published/

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes agreed.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes agreed.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sodomites as defined in the Bible, are an abomination to God, and therefor No Christian Church should have to marry them, as it is against Gods Law.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Not generally in private homes, only in exceptional circumstances.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General Registers office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People must adhere to the rules/requirements

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Quickie divorce undermines the responsibility to endeavor to make the marriage work ie time is a great healer and we must give it sufficient time. More divorce means more single parents and deprived children. Stability for children is paramount.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Longer please.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It excludes easy public access

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Navy vessels

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Mane the officiant

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Captain only.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Religious belief is always to be accomadated

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXC-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 18:19:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If couples are resident in the area at least for a period, where they get married, it can show they are committed and it means people won't be going all over the place to arrange the wedding venue.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Giving notice in person is always the safest option

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

At least 7 days. Marriage is such an important step it must not be rushed. interviews

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be in person, which may help avoid sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

On line and in registry offices where either of the couple would not be at risk of harm.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns in Anglican Churches have worked well for hundreds of years and reinforces their commitment.

Consultation Question 14:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be published at the church where the wedding is to take place and the churches the couple attend.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

They should both be required to attend and make separate declarations. This could be a safeguard.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to make sure that the wording and expression of such a serious ceremony as marriage is dignified. Also the Venue is very important. The present laws we have in place are satisfactory. My daughter was married in a hotel and the registrar emphasised the seriousness of the union. The seating was laid out to give the couple an 'isle' to walk down. Marriage is too important to be allowed to take place anywhere or anyhow a couple might like to choose.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple must both be present at a wedding and clearly state that there is no impediment to their marrying. The prescribed words under the current regulations should be retained. Couples can already add to these. Marriage is the bedrock of society and vows must be serious and declared before others.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious and solemn commitment. It must remain an official legal declaration to the whole of society.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hundreds of years ago, the open doors policy was brought in to protect people from being forced into marriage against their will. This is still a problem today particularly in some religions.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such an important ceremony as marriage must only be allowed in certain suitable premises as with the current arrangements. Marriage would be trivialised if couples could just get married in the most bizarre venue they can think of.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are a public event affecting the whole of society.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should stay as it is, with registry offices, churches and hotels as legal locations.

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What would be the criteria for a location be acceptable as dignified? Presumably safety, means suitable fire standards within soundly constructed buildings?

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are essential

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they have not had a marriage ceremony, they are not married.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It may trivialise marriageii

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It may trivialise marriage

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. Marriage is too serious to be allowed on other vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not as far as I am concerned. That includes my husband as well

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married .

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDP-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 18:26:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

Member of the Public

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was widowed after 30 years of a lawful marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree officiants should have a responsibility to uphold the DIGNITY and SOLEMNITY of the marriage but fear that the meaning of these words can be changed to suit anything proposed. What if the officiants view of the meaning differs from the couple who wish to marry?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So that the public can access the guidelines

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wording of the above seems to indicate that the person may not need to be at the ceremony and that a schedule can be signed at some other time. I would greatly fear that this would create a an open door for forced marriages.

Surly the ceremony should contain an expression of consent.

A nod of the head is not acceptable in a court of law one has to audibly answer.

I had an affidavit issued by an officer to say he had personally given a document to me but he had not. Signing schedules is weakening the marriage contract.

It is after all a contract which needs to be signed in front of an officiant.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This makes the wedding contract subject to the wishes or whims of the couple. They could chose not to have any witnesses.

The marriage contract has implications for society, it is a public declaration. Safe guards may be needed for some couples who may not be thinking responsibly.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would any one want to take away public scrutiny?

Private weddings make it easier for a forced marriage which we know is still an issue in our multicultural society, or to make it easier to commit polygamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No to anywhere. I think this is too general the place needs to meet certain criteria for dignity and solemnity, as well as safety for the public / guests.

Please share your views below:

No to private homes as this is no longer a public ceremony.

No to in the air as it gives no jurisdiction over the ceremony unless it was a British registered airline.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All marriage contracts should be public for accountability to society and safety from forced marriages

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - Someone has to be made responsible and accountable for deciding if a venue is safe and dignified, but what guidelines would the officiants be given to help them decide?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These guidelines need to be available to the public.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXY-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 20:04:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a member of the Catholic Church. However, my responses to the consultation is personal and not representative of the Catholic Church or any other organization.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a bachelor.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

As a bachelor this question is irrelevant.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a reasonable requirement, which may reduce a bigamous marriage being attempted or contracted.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a reasonable measure.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

It is necessary for those who have good reason to prevent the marriage from taking place, e.g., by knowing one party or both parties to the proposed marriage are not free to marry for any legal reason, e.g., not divorced from a previous spouse, or under the statutory age for marriage.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Concerns about sham or forced marriages or the capacity of either part to consent may not be apparent. Therefore, there should be an in-person interview in all applications to a registrar for a licence to marry.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

While it is acceptable, subject to the exception above, for the notice to be publicly displayed online, the practice of a printed notice being displayed at the registry office should also be continued.

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant or the substitute officiant should be a person who has already been appointed by the Registrar General as an authorised person to witness and to record the marriage in the duplicate registers of marriages.

### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, subject to my response to Question 11.

Please share your views below:

Providing the other circumstances are of a sufficiently serious nature.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is an important safeguard.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some clergymen may not be willing to be appointed as 'a person authorised by the Registrar General'.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be nominated by the non-religious organisation, but also authorised by the Registrar General.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a minimum safeguard, especially for the dignity of the service.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The legality, public policy and sound morality demands this requirement.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

An officiant needs to be authorised by the Registrar in General in person, not simply the pro-tem person holding a said office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without this provision, there could be a dispute concerning an individual officiant's qualification to acting as an officiant.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My reply to Q 28 applies here,

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No unfit or improper person should ever be authorised to undertake such an important responsibility.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That goes without saying.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise, it may not be clear in which capacity the individual is acting and, therefore, responsible for recording the marriage.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious underaking, with moral and legal implications, which should be reflected clearly by the dignity and solemnity of the marriage service.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is necessary to ensure that all officiants are aware of and respect the moral and legal importance of marriage, for those getting married and any children born of the union.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense, for the organisation nominating an individual would or should likely to be the first to know or become aware of any reason whether the individual continues to be suitable for the office.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes complete sense,

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, because GRO's duty to ensure that the officiant acts legally, morally and with the necessary dignity is paramount.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The upper age of the officiant may require evidence that the officiant remains sufficiently competent to carry out the duties, by making an enquiry, initially, of the individual, if aged, say, 75 or plus.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All officiants need to be aware of any alterations in legislation concerning marriage.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The present requirements demanded by law ensure that all the legal consequences are known and accepted by the couple marrying. Therefore, they should be retained publicly within the service, and not at the signing of register, which is conducted after the end of the service and, usually, not publicly.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be clear safeguards to protect the legality, morality, and dignity of the core of the service, which should not be left to the parties or officiant to decide.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My comments to Qs 42 and 43 apply also here.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A civil wedding ceremony containing a religious content is contradiction in terms. Under present legislation, after a civil marriage, a marriage ceremony may be religious service of marriage may be held, though not in the established Church of England.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If only, because there can be circumstances when it is convenient, if not important, for a couple to be civilly married, before they are able to arrange a religious marriage service to suit their needs or those of their relatives and friends. Therefore, the facilitating section 46 of the Marriage Act 1949 should not be repealed.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding service, including the statements to be made by the parties required by the state's law, is an act which has not only personal consequences but civil and legal implications, and, therefore, should be accessible by the doors of the place to be open,

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential that the place where the marriage is to take place reflects the importance, seriousness and dignity of the service. Therefore, it should be in a building which itself reflects the importance, seriousness and dignity of marriage.

Please share your views below:

Certainly not outdoors, nor on inland waters, nor in the air. If one of the parties is dying and confined to bed in a private home, a hospital or hospice, it should be allowable for the wedding to take place in one or other of those institutions.

If a wedding is permitted "in the air", how would it be unknown under which jurisdiction the wedding is subject, and which civil laws apply.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For reasons I have given to some of the previous questions,

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Non-religious weddings should never be allowed to be conducted in religious buildings, e.g., churches, chapel, or buildings, e.g., schools or halls clearly associated with a religious organisation. Non-religious weddings should be allowed in only secular buildings which reflect the gravity and dignity of weddings.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The state should impose the conditions which must be satisfied for any location to be acceptable and legal for a wedding to be held. If, over and above those conditions, the officiant decides that a particular location (i.e. building) is unsuitable, the officiant should be allowed to decline to hold the wedding in such a location.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to the conditions imposed by state legislation.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The final decision must not be left for an individual officiant, but to the GRO.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be acceptable for the RGO to approve of particular locations for weddings, but the officiant should have the right to decline to officiate in such a location, if the officiant has acceptable reasons for so doing.

Please share your views below:

The RGO should be responsible for pre-approval of a location and to withdraw the approval should the conditions change, rendering the location unsuitable.

Any officiant or the appointing organisation should have the right to appeal to the RGO should a particular location cease to be suitable, and, in the meantime, for the officiant or the appointing organisation to decline from using such a location.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The occupation of the parties to the marriage should be recorded, as at present, and not just those of their parents.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should have the choice of registering their marriage in English only, or in both English and Welsh, but not in Welsh only, given that a only minority of the population of Wales speak or understand Welsh, and such a document should be easily read and understood by any official in the U.K.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided that a hard copy of the electronic registration is able to produce at the time and supplied to the parties who had just married.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

My comments to a previous question address those problems, though I did not refer to those in prison, which should be included.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the circumstances allow time for notice of their intention to marry to be given and for them to be interviewed by a registration officer, that should take place. However, in the event of that not being possible to the likelihood of immanent death, then the officiant should be permitted to go ahead and, post factum, notify the registrar.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There could arise some ambiguity and, therefore, doubt about the precise location, whether it was within the costal waters, also this provision lacks the location of including a building which itself reflects the gravity and importance of the wedding.



Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, for the same reasons given in reply to Q 68.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, for the reasons given in reply to Q 68.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, for the reasons given in response to Q68 and also because it is vital that the officiant should be identifiable for every wedding, should the legality, etc, of the marriage ever be contested.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my responses for the previous questions.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with marriages at sea, full stop.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with marriages at sea, full stop.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There should be no demand for religious or non-religious marriages in international waters, because they would lack a building which reflects the importance and dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This may be a burden on a person housebound.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

The terminally ill should not have to pay over and above the basic fee.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the status quo for couples who do not want a religious wedding nor one in any other building.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The housebound should not be penalised for something beyond their control, though those detained should be expected to contribute to the extra cost.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Provision should also be waived if the terminally ill person could not afford the fee.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not consider that the current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married. There are not a few couples, however, who do not realise the importance of having their union recognised legally, because they are ignorant, thinking that a long-term relationship, 'a common law marriage', has a

legal basis, equivalent to a civil marriage. That myth should be clearly exposed. The legal costs of getting married are infinitesimally small when compared with the expenses that couples usually incur for the reception, etc.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I believe that the Church of England has standard charges for marriages, but I do not know if they are so high that couples are ever deterred from marrying in a C of E church.

The Catholic Church has no such charges, and leave it to the couple to decide if or how much to donate.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDA-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 20:36:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is not just the conduct of the official which is important to the dignity and solemnity but also the content of the ceremony and the place in which it takes place

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

It should be dignified and serious - marriage is not a game and some of the choices couples could make if there are no defined guidelines could be inappropriate.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are public events.

The open doors policy is a protection against forced marriage.

Marriage is not just a private matter. It has great public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will take away the dignity and seriousness of marriage when held in inappropriate venues.

Please share your views below:

There needs to be stringent safeguards as to how appropriate the venues are.

The ceremony should be dignified and have due solemnity befitting marriage as a life long committment.

Consultation Question 49:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how these venues will be tested for safety and dignity and who makes this judgement.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

On what terms would these judgements be based.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFD5-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-20 21:41:06

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What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To avoid elopement or sham weddings

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is a private matter of great importance.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a legal process and should be properly done

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is for life and should not be gone into lightly.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consent at the ceremony is important and declaring no impediments exist should be part of it too.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are a public expression of a couple declaring their love and desire for marriage and the ceremony should not be cheapened by any other form than the established ones.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Hymns, prayers etc

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Traditionally weddings were performed in churches and other religious sites except in exceptional times as marriage is a sacrament in Christianity. Anywhere would mean literally in unsuitable places not fitting for such an important ceremony. One does not have a court case anywhere but in court with the right people and solemnity due to its importance.

Please share your views below:

None of the above are suitable. People can go there afterwards but not for the ceremony itself. Once they're allowed in these places the door is open for every type of place imaginable.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some rules have to apply.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This may lead to sham weddings etc and lack of proper preparation for the marriage.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problem

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No remote signing as it could lead to all kinds of problems and difficulties later on and lack of evidence of consent.

No



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not sure there is.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cost is usually not for the actual ceremony but clothing, venue for reception and other related costs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Fewer people will get married under the new plan as it will take away the solemnity and seriousness of the marriage vows now taken and turn it into a party instead.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDN-P

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Submitted on 2020-12-20 21:52:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should be possible

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

family responsibilities

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

could be published online

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is imperative to define what is meant by the proposal that officiants should have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The ceremonies taking place “in the air” as being compatible with this suggests the proposed standards will not be high enough.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a lifelong commitment a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. Not just a personal commitment to each other, Both parties must be in attendance and publicly declare their intentions from a safety view as well as a legal view

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. A ceremony should have a sense of solemnity and be serious.

Not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. It is doubtful that many of the unofficial wedding ceremonies that have taken place including ones with themes such as 'Woodland Fairy' with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs have really reflected upon how serious marriage is.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has a public significance which the "open doors" requirement helps to convey. It is still a valid ancient protection against forced marriage which is still sadly needed in our society .

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony should have seriousness and solemnity and venues should be appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

If anywhere it seems the standards would not be hard to be met. Would weddings be allowed in for example a Burger King, or underwater, in a S & M dungeon, or in a star wars convention with participants dressed as characters ? It could not be compatible with the dignity of marriage for places like these to host legal weddings.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

the safe and dignified test doesn't seem too hard to meet.

Forced marriages may be easier to conceal in a private home

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The proposals are vague in how venues would be tested to ensure “dignity” and “safety”.  
These need defining and stringent safeguards should be proposed from the General Register Office.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The proposals are vague in how venues would be tested to ensure “dignity” and “safety”.  
These need defining and stringent safeguards should be proposed from the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses should be present

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDG-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 00:13:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

None

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It adds importance to the occasion

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's not just a formality

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

It's a reasonable time

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person interviews should always be required. It is one of the biggest contracts a person can enter into

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Not possible

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Publicity is good

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Delete the delay part too sloppy

Please share your views below:

No

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No should be public

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Essential

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Essential

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Require guidance

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes if the organisation expresses views contrary to the importance of marriage

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe not if don't regard marriage as lifetime commitment

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If meet defined criteria

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Must have universal criteria

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Definition required

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Oversight required

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

5 years to ensure continuing to meet criteria

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Must have criteria eg lifetime commitment

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Catholics and maybe others should be included

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One can always sign two contracts for the same thing

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is a public declaration unlike most contracts

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided it doesn't detract from the importance eg in a brothel

Please share your views below:

Public access required

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With defined criteria

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must be public

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXH-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 03:12:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Instant registration leaves the system open to abuse such as we have seen illegal immigrants sham marriage to gain entry

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think in-person interviews should be the norm rather than the exception.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes I think meeting is important. Marriage is a serious lifetime commitment and should be treated seriously.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Important that any Tom Dick or Harry not officiate at weddings. We see TV programs carrying ridiculous gimmick weddings that clearly have no real meaning which denigrates the importance of marriage.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hard to define but 20 members does not seem like a serious organisation considering the long term perspective of marriage. such a small group may not exist even 5 years down the road.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This sounds good but from history religious organisation have been suppressed because their views differ from what is seen as public policy at the time

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There certainly need to be parameters as to who can officiate. I think is too young.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. This needs to be expanded as to what it entails not just left in these vague terms open to any kind of interpretation.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Due weight needs to be given to the ceremony and a standard form of words included.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In principal but not clear what is meant or entailed in 'continuing professional development'. For instance religious organisations may not agree with current trends in what is acceptable behaviour and this needs to be catered for.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consent by both parties should be publicly declared to avoid dubious arrangements.  
A standard form of ceremony should be included in the whole.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom should be allowed within the overall context but a standard form must be included.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Marriage is a public declaration of intent and should be open to view

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a 'fun' thing to be held in your local nightclub, swimming pool or similar. It is beautiful and enjoyable but must be done with seriousness and dignity in order to be taken as a lifelong investment worthy of expending spending energy and commitment in.

Too many marriages already fail and making the whole thing seem less serious is not going to help.

Please share your views below:

Needs to be a place that carries dignity and some Gravitas. A venue people associate with serious business.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has always been seen as a public declaration of intent and should retain this aspect.

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some specific guidelines as to what is acceptable.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but dignified needs some sort of specifications. It is too vague as it stands.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English needs to be included in all as the official language of the UK.

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation is part of what constitutes a marriage and without is various reasons for the marriage are possible such as money or other gains.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

See no problem with these except regarding the provision for cohabitation which would need to be waived in these exceptional circumstances.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Only with the previously stated proviso that the venue carries seriousness and gravitas. Not wedding underwater and such like in diving clubs.

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFD8-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 09:54:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Christian

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Some postponed.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important there is some connection to the place of the wedding.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a modicum of marriage preparation,

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why on earth not?

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Not necessarily but in a nearby church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1, Is important

2. This is not important.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they need to state they are eligible to be married.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Christians will want a specifically Christian ceremony.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a serious occasion.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They have a recognised position in the community,

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes,

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The integrity of marriage must be kept in tact.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Checks must be made as to whether they are already married, able to understand the commitment they are making, etc.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should not be seen as a means to make money.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a must !

But what of the content of the service they oversee?

If the vows are reduced to nice thoughts, etc, the couple should not marry but be encouraged to something like a civil union. Thus the purposes of marriage need to be defined, such as its permanence.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Also as to what essential principles of what constitutes a marriage as opposed to something like a civil union.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. it should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

2. What is being proposed is no longer a marriage but akin to a civil union. Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

3. We must not undermine the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

4. I would say there is already enough flexibility in the wedding ceremony. Because the prescribed words are minimal, couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.

5. Surely it is not too burdensome to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

6. How would you now define a marriage? It is being redefined so that it is no longer a marriage. The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. Marriage should not be defined by a couple but by the society of which they are a part. Tell them to go for something like a civil union.

2. Marriage and a wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

3. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included interesting but not themes worthy of a wedding ceremony which is both a joyful but also solemn matter. I understand themes like those below have been tried: Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why call anything that comes to folk's minds a wedding?

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayers, Christian / religious songs, sacred scriptural readings.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

2. The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage.

This is still a problem in our society.

3. Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public importance.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. Some folk with a sense of humour may suggest getting married in unsuitable venues, eg. public toilet, etc.

2. Ceremonies should take place in appropriate places for a significant public as well as private affair..

3. There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but inappropriate settings should be prohibited.

4. I understand unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. This seems to me to be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Folk may need to object about the legality or not of a wedding, where one is already married.

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No 3 invites hypocrisy.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if they follow guidelines specifying what it a suitable venue.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if nationally agreed guidelines are made and followed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The local registrar ultimately.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Due process of witnesses is needed.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No as long as due process is followed.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As marriage is so important to society it should have the highest standards.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be the thin edge of of the wedge to allow many weddings to be conducted remotely. These are extraordinary circumstances that hopefully won't happen very often.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

If you lower the bar on what constitutes a wedding, more may marry. Yet this is not in itself a good thing.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have conducted 100's of wedding in churches and where necessary we have been able to reduce fees.

Fees have not normally been any detereent when you think about the £1000's spent on receptions.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:



Please share your views below:

You have not allowed space for general reflection on your proposals

So this is a general point about your proposals, some of which are good.

However you have given acres of space thinking about the structures / wrappings surrounding a wedding but not at all considered what the content of a wedding and what marriage means.

Another consultation should have already taken place on the meaning of marriage.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFD2-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 11:18:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

No Organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The mutual consent to be married to each other should always be required to be made both orally and by signing a document at the marriage ceremony in the presence of the officiant. This is to ensure that it is clear to the Officiant that both parties really have consented to the marriage and there has been no coercion.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This puts too much responsibility on the Officiant to determine if the Parties proposals are sufficiently appropriate and dignified, and could lead to big variations in their decisions, that could lead to conflict. It is much better if standard forms of ceremony are determined, that must be included in all marriages, to reach appropriate levels of dignity.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is far too wide a proposal, and would lead to inappropriate venues being proposed, that would not comply with the need for a serious and dignified ceremony.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

None of the suggestions above would be appropriate for a serious and dignified ceremony. These suggestions confirm the need to have wedding venues and the form of marriage to be determined and approved by the appropriate authorities

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I have stated in previous responses, this puts too much responsibility on the Officiants, to check and determine if the location is appropriate. Different decisions made by Officiants could lead to conflict and criticism of the Officiants

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above, the only way to have consistency in deciding these matters is to have them approved by local authorities and not left to individual Officiants, whose decisions could vary widely

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above answer

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDC-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 11:51:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Please select a region, state or province.

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience during the pandemic.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such registration helps with the legal and public nature of the marriage commitment.

### Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. The possibility of sham marriages could easily be missed.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see the advantage of this.

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. They should be published in the churches of the parish(es) where the couple live.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to 1. I don't see why there should be a requirement to meet each member of the couple separately rather than together.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason whatever to change this. The Church of England is the established church ministering to the whole nation through every parish.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see absolutely no reason to change this.

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Vitally important. That means having a say on the venue and on the content of the service.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They must consent orally and say there is no impediment orally. There should be set words for consent and for taking of solemn vows making a lifetime commitment. The couple should obviously be present. The couple are married at the point when they have given their consent and made their vows and pronounced man and wife by the officiant.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious public commitment. Any old form of service will not do. There is a public, societal, national and legal aspect to it.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public commitment; it is not a private matter. This provides a protection against forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of marriage must be preserved at all costs.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In the air???? All this detracts from the solemnity and seriousness of the occasion.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are public commitments being made, not simply private ceremonies.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but much more needs to be done to spell out what 'dignified' means and how these tests should be made.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Stringent safeguards are required here.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Parents should be identified as 'mother' or 'father' so as to remove all ambiguity.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are essential. The other things are very important too.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is being made easier in a sense but taken less seriously in another. The expansion of venues and anything goes services undermines rather than strengthens the meaning of marriage as a life-long commitment of a man and woman to each other.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXA-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 12:17:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private response. Not linked to any organisation.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not concerned about confidentiality

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have been married for 46 years and was married in a church.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I understood my conventional marriage was recognised by the law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is important that people intending to get married should understand the context of the place where they are intending to get married. Marriage should not be regarded as a "quick fix" but something that has been thought through including an appropriate place and time.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious institution not a trivial one. Does this question mean that the interview could be held after the marriage? I think an interview is a very important part of the process.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days is too short. How are couples going to be able to show that they are truly serious about their intention to get married and have had sufficient time to really think it through.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This will totally undermine the value of marriage as it has been understood. The question has to be asked as to why couples are considering marriage when a civil partnership or some other "joining" would provide the same effect in law. Marriage is and should remain more important than just "signing up". By trivialising marriage, it means less, will be far less enduring and the obligations to one another traditionally made in a marriage ceremony will become meaningless. The adverse consequences for the fabric of society are immense already and will be far greater.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only IN ADDITION to existing practice i.e. reading of banns etc

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not understand the implications of this question.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be clearly stipulated and limited reasons why an original officiant has to be substituted to avoid the growth of specialist officiants who become known as officiants who work so closely within the law as to call into question whether they are acting legally.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not see any reason for the existing laws to be changed.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if proper notice is given as to the publication of the alternative venue for a minimum period of time e.g. one month plus.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Clergy must have the power to call for evidence - or the couple can choose to be married in a registry office or other approved venue outside the church.

There should not be a need to get the couple separately except at the discretion of the officiant.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This is very important - otherwise the couple should choose to get married outside the church. The church should be free to set its own rules on this and other matters.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this was found to be unacceptable to couples, they should choose to be married outside the church.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage within the Christian church has a meaning which is not or may not have the same meaning for other religious or non-religious organisations. To adopt this practice would further dilute the meaning of "marriage" in my opinion.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this further waters down the meaning of marriage. It is important that the bodies that are able to authorise marriage are confined as at present. An alternative would be to create another term for marriage for these types of ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Marriage was always intended to be a holy institution. I recognise this has been changing in recent history. I think that the term "marriage" should be limited to its current context and a different term used for other joining of couples legally. The Christian churches should be allowed to continue to conduct marriages.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

"Yes" to religious organisations only.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would lead to the loss of control of people being given the title officiant and the likelihood of marriages being conducted outside the law.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer Q29 above.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There could be situations where couples are exploited or change in circumstances over time which would lead to the same consequence.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure how this provision could be managed or upheld given the loosening of the law proposed in other areas of these proposed changes.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a legal provision to execute the withdrawal by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time limit with time allowed at the end of any authorisation period for representations to be made to the GRO.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely do not agree. There should be a prescribed form of words and questions to which the couple are required to respond. The parties should be present to make the promises to the officiant - not sure if this is clear in the above question.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a standard basis with no more flexibility than is currently permitted. Any other approach would lead to the watering down of marriage and the commitments that are so important.

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

But I also accept that controlling this would be difficult. Is there any need to make a provision in this regard in the proposed legislation as it appears to open the door to mis-use of religious content.

Please share your views below:

Please see answer to Q45 above

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If couples choose to have a religious service after a civil ceremony it should be permitted. There does not appear to be any legal reason why this should not be so.

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public declaration of a couple getting married and this should not change. It is of public significance. Also, closed marriage ceremonies could encourage forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At registered locations only where public attendance is possible and where there is an "open door". Marriage is a legal and public matter not for the sole enjoyment of a couple to indulge themselves in a "ceremony".

Please share your views below:

Outdoors - seems fine as long as it is registered as a appropriate venue by the GRO

Inland waters - as Outdoors

In the air - should not be permitted. It seems frivolous, diminishes the value of marriage and impossible for an "open door" to exist.

Private homes - should not be permitted as there is scope for abuse and avoiding "open door".

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is vital for reasons previously stated.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the decision of the religious organisation as to whether civil ceremonies should be permitted in religious venues. I feel this is a very important issue for those with religious views. It will become a controversial political argument if this is allowed as the state will be seen as trying to impose its power over religious organisations. Why would a non-religious couple seek to be married in a church other than for vexatious reasons or a frivolous "I like the building" type of reason which trivialises the meaning of marriage and would diminish the value of a religious building based wedding to a religious couple. There is just as much responsibility on the law to uphold the rights and expectations of a religious couple as those of a secular couple.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

GRO responsibility.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

GRO responsibility. The trivialisation of marriage has to be avoided at all costs. There is surely a need for locations to provide the levels of dignity required for the solemnisation of marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

By the GRO.

Please share your views below:

The GRO.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses otherwise there can be no certainty that the marriage was conducted.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No view on this.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

My main concern is that any change might reduce the importance of marriage. The central question is why is marriage so important? Is it just for the couple or for the benefit of society as a whole? I would strongly argue it is the latter and this should not be lost sight of.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As Q85, it is very necessary to have a formal, legalised wedding ceremony that reflects the importance of two people joining together. Any trivialisation cannot be justified. There are too many marriage breakups as things stand which signifies to me that marriage is not taken seriously enough. We have to consider why the changes are being considered. It is not simply for the benefit of the couple. It is for the benefit of society.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No views

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No views

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFXW-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 12:19:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Twenty-first century life/work is far less confined to one area and the seven day residency prior to giving notice is no longer appropriate .

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

More in keeping with modern life.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Between 7 and 14 days to allow time to address any problems which might have arisen as a result of the interviews.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews should be required in every case. If carried out remotely it would be possible for the entire preliminary procedure to be carried out remotely which could bring the legality of the exercise into question.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both in order to guarantee the legality of the union and the willingness of both parties to the marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Definitely, in order to ensure it is a genuine marriage and not a sham, forced or coerced.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes. The list should include any organisation that has a view of marriage that is not based on commitment for life or that it is based on a union of more than two people.

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree definitely. The organisation should be in good standing with the law and with majority public opinion regarding morality and life values.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

'fit and proper' needs to be clearly defined. The legality and seriousness of the occasion must be preserved and that will depend on the attitude and behaviour of the officiant.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree with the suggestions ensuring legal probity but the officiant must also be made aware of his/her responsibility to conduct the wedding in a dignified way, maintaining a tone that reflects the serious lifelong nature of the commitment that is being made.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Terms 'Dignity and solemnity' require some amplification. The seriousness of the occasion as a public declaration of the participants' commitment to a lifelong union must be upheld. It is a legal ceremony not a frivolous stunt.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No



Please expand on your answer:

It requires an impartial judgement from a higher authority.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a public declaration of a commitment being made and as such should be heard by all who are present. The existing prescribed words should be used but may be added to if required. It is a legal agreement that is being entered into and those present are witnesses to it and must therefore understand the promises being made.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public occasion and not exclusively about the couple getting married. Therefore it is not up to them alone to make decisions about the form of the ceremony. They are entering a lifelong commitment, recognised by society and with legal requirements. Both the Law and society are involved in this public declaration and the form and ceremony must reflect that.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayer for the couple by a visiting religious leader.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony must convey the public nature of the wedding ceremony. The open doors requirement is a safeguard against abuse eg. forced marriage or instances of a bigamous marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue must allow for the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. A legal agreement is being entered into which is intended to last until the death of one or both parties. As such it is open to members of the public to witness as well as a legal representative. This could not be guaranteed in some more 'adventurous' venues eg deep sea diving, in a deep cave, on private property.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Certainly. See answer above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A public declaration is being made.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be inappropriate for one group to use another's venue particularly at popular wedding periods where members of a group may be prevented from using their own venue.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There could be a lack of impartiality. The legal guidelines provided for suitable venues should be clear enough and decided on in the preliminary deliberations.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It relies too heavily on the opinion of the officiant who could be persuaded by over zealous couples that a particular venue was suitable.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Health and Safety representative.

Leader of the organisation responsible for the ceremony

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absence of witnesses to a legal agreement must invalidate it. The validity of the marriage could be questioned at a later date with no witnesses to prove otherwise.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Couples who are serious about marriage are not discouraged or prevented from getting married, having access to either a religious or a civil ceremony.
2. These proposals would definitely facilitate and encourage those who want a wedding with a novelty value rather than a dignified occasion signifying the seriousness of a lifelong commitment to each other. No doubt this would lead to an increase in the number of those being legally married - until they look for an easy divorce once the novelty's worn off.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDK-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 12:44:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I had a legally binding wedding and there were no barriers to it at all.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be in-person, to avoid any concerns about bogus persons getting away with a remote interview. Marriage is a very serious commitment and must be treated in this way.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Limiting the banns to just the wedding church is very restrictive. It is important that the banns be read in both parish churches of the parties concerned, as those locations are likely to know the individuals, whereas the wedding church congregation might not know them.



Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It is important that the legal aspects of a marriage are fully complied with. Documentary evidence shown at the start would help prevent sham marriages. Meeting each of the couple separately would also help prevent sham marriages.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This would help prevent sham marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a very serious commitment. It should not be entered into lightly, and so the dignity and solemnity of it should most definitely be upheld. The dignity and solemnity of the content of the marriage service should also be upheld, not just the way the officiant acts.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The parties must express their consent and lack of impediment, both orally and publicly during the marriage ceremony. Both parties must be physically present, along with the witnesses and public.

Marriage is a very serious commitment and therefore the ceremony must reflect that, in prescribed words and in public oral commitment.

A marriage is not just about the couple themselves; they are committing to a lifelong public commitment that is understood by society and is legally defined. It is not a private matter where the parties can say what they like. There is already scope within the ceremony for parties to add to the wording, but the basic wording must be defined and be legally binding.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public and societal commitment, and must therefore be commenced in the agreed public legal declaration. To allow the parties to make an alternative form would go completely against this. Marriage must be taken seriously and therefore the ceremony too must be taken seriously.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should conform to a recognised format.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Either the wedding ceremony is religious or it isn't. It is illogical to make it "a little bit religious".

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private matter - it is a public declaration of lifelong commitment in a form accepted by society. To exclude the public from a wedding would go completely against this.

Having open doors also helps to combat sham weddings and forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn and serious matter, and hence venues should be appropriate places to hold such significant events.

Please share your views below:

Venues must have public access. They should be dignified, solemn and respected places.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious public commitment to a lifelong union. Therefore the creation of a marriage must therefore be public.

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The approval of a venue must be given by society, not by an officiant. The venue must allow for a solemn, serious, public ceremony.

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is the responsibility of society to only allow venues to be used if they are serious, solemn and public places.

Clearly if an officiant spots a dangerous building defect just before a ceremony commences, then it is his responsibility to point it out, but it is society's responsibility to check and authorise venues for suitability.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage document is a legal certification of the event, and must therefore be highly controlled as to its content. All the proposed items should be included in it.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with so-called "same-sex marriages". These are not marriages.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are essential to the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

By not taking place on land, one excludes the public from witnessing the event.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

By not taking place on land, one excludes the public from witnessing the event.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF69-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 12:48:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Never Married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Never Married

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Weddings not attended

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In person interviews are crucial

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There is a lot of information that can be gathered in person to ensure a safe and legal marriage. This should not be weakened

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No views

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proposed duty, but it does not go far enough. Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, which suggests they are easy standards to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.

It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate; A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.

The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society.

Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed

because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but I express caution that this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.

Please share your views below:

The term "safe and dignified" doesn't seem too hard to meet. Would weddings also be allowed in McDonald's?

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFD1-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 13:13:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Excluded from the weddings of a nephew and niece, and their celebrations, owing to very tight number limits.



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is about (among other things) providing lifelong stability, and the relationship between the married couple and the community. It's meant to be a serious, well thought through commitment for life through all circumstances that may arise - however unpredictable. Therefore at least one of the couple should have a substantial connection to the community in which they are marrying. It 7 days is already too short.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This does not provide for demonstration of any of commitment, stability or connection with the community.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

One month or more.

It's a serious step and commitment. It needs to be thought about carefully. Too many marriages end in divorce, which greatly harms children, families, communities and society as a whole. The gravity of it should never be undermined - and having such special requirements makes it a greater achievement and milestone in life, with correspondingly greater meaning and joy.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No.

Sham or forced marriages would be much easier: you can't see who else is behind the camera, listening in or even watching, making intimidation easy. Nor can you see if the couple is actually concentrating on the interview, or (for example) simultaneously answering messages or playing games. Nothing should get in the way of reinforcing the multidimensional importance of marriage.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes - sometimes distance makes it difficult to have the interview for both partners at or near the place of marriage; though this shouldn't reduce the need for (a) the interview and (b) one of the couple to hold it in the community in which they will marry.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not the venue or date, to prevent gatecrashing.

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You haven't asked if the schedule system should be introduced in the first place: it should not. Marriage certificates are important and should be the primary way of recording marriages.

### Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You haven't asked if the schedule system should be introduced in the first place: it should not. Marriage certificates are important and should be the primary way of recording marriages.

But yes, substitute officiants should be allowed.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You haven't asked if the schedule system should be introduced in the first place: it should not. Marriage certificates are important and should be the primary way of recording marriages.

But yes, substitute officiants should be allowed.

Please share your views below:

You haven't asked if the schedule system should be introduced in the first place: it should not. Marriage certificates are important and should be the primary way of recording marriages.

But yes, substitute officiants should be allowed.

#### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be published in the communities of both parties - and not just Anglican.

#### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be published in the communities of both parties - and not just Anglican.

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes - and not just Anglican.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should - and not just Anglican.

#### Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Religious preliminaries should be allowed for all the major religions that have a well-established organisational structure: Christian (of all substantial episcopal denominations), Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh - and not just Anglican.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious ceremonies are the important part of the marriage for those with strong religious beliefs, which is the majority in the world (if not in the UK). Therefore religious ceremonies should be allowed to take primacy, with registrars attending.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is harder to deceive two about a sham or forced wedding.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And not just Anglican, but the ministers of all recognised religions with well-established organisation and structure.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the ministers of all recognised religions with well-established organisation and structure should be allowed to officiate - not just Anglicans.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because any such belief system is created by the people involved, which makes it subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation.

The proposed definition includes the Flat Earth Society and New-Age hippies as religions, which clearly they are not. Nor is humanism - indeed, the fact that increasingly they ape Christian services in the marking of births, marriages and deaths, proves that they are a non-religion in search of a meaning. All other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.

Please share your views below:

On the contrary, there should be a list of religions that SHOULD be allowed to officiate, and non-religious belief organisations should NOT be allowed. The religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

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Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

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Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only their organisations should be able to apply for their inclusion: people should have to be nominated, not to nominate themselves. The religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You omit all moral and societal meaning of marriage. The institution of marriage cannot be divorced from its moral meaning (commitment, exclusivity, total sharing, mutual support through all that life may bring, all of which give rise to completely different forms of freedom, etc) and societal meaning (stability, family, place in society, permanence etc).

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As soon as weddings become a profitable activity, the official would be motivated to increase the number of weddings regardless of whether such weddings are right or wrong, good or bad. This would turn marriage into merely a commercial transaction open to all manner of wrongful manipulation and scandal.

The religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limitations on fees: people can be very creative in assessing the levels of costs that build up fees (e.g. I invested a year in researching it, training and getting approval, and must recover those costs on each wedding as there is no knowing how many I would conduct), thereby destroying the limitation on profits and the abuses and scandals that would result.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The only religions that are allowed to nominate officiants should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These should include minimum requirements on the gravity, commitment, moral and societal aspects of marriage, and that the marriage is a life-long commitment that remains regardless of circumstances such as riches/poverty, sickness/health and other pressures, and is (as proven by a plethora of studies) the best framework in which to raise families.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Councils should have a duty of oversight too, to prevent abuses.

Such monitoring and oversight can only be carried out properly by religious organisations with a well established structure and organisation. The only religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it must allow for the particular religious beliefs of well-established and structured religions. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Councils should have first duty of oversight - they're much closer to the ground. The General Office should oversee that.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be required to state that there is no impediment to their marrying each other. It's a solemn vow and commitment.

Such officially recognised wedding ceremonies should only be carried out properly by a religious organisations with well established structure and organisation; all others should need a civil ceremony too. The only religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such officially recognised wedding ceremonies should only be carried out properly by a religious organisations with well established structure and organisation; all others should need a civil ceremony too. The only religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such officially recognised wedding ceremonies should only be carried out properly by a religious organisations with well established structure and organisation; all others should need a civil ceremony too. The only religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Commitment to life-long partnership for better/worse, richer/poorer, sickness/health.  
Commitment (where appropriate) to raising a family .  
Swearing their oaths before God and optionally on a religious book.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All that de-values a wedding should be resisted.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Access should always be allowed for those who know of a legal impediment (e.g. forced marriage, other still-valid marriage of one of the partners) to say so.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is making it frivolous.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

This is making it frivolous.

In private homes should only be permissible if one partner is too sick or frail reasonably to go elsewhere; the other options should be banned.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Access should always be allowed to those who know of a legal impediment to say so.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings conducted by religious organisations with a well established structure and organisation should not need a civil ceremony; all others should need a civil ceremony too. The only religions that are allowed should be those with well established structures and organisations, as those are the only ones who can be held to account for any abuses that may arise. The proposed changes would include all manner of harmful, abusive and manipulative cults that have arisen in the past and keep arising from time to time throughout the world. Non-religious belief systems do not qualify and should not be allowed, as they are subject to change on whim, and judgement as to whether or not the belief system is adhered to becomes merely a matter of personal self-affirmation. (Not of other so-called religions or people would be free to create such pseudo-religions to justify anything that they wish.)

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will led to trivialising the wedding ceremony and therefore marriage.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Councils (who are closer to the ground) should have that responsibility; the General Office should oversee it.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Religious organisations with a well established structure and organisation, and Councils, Oversight by the General Register Office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But don't drop off the other requirements that currently exist, or family trees would be un-traceable.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This trivialises weddings and marriage, making them frivolous.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

These should all be included. But you omit many other factors that may void a marriage, e.g. pre-existing (and continuing) marriages, ill intent (e.g. forcing, for nationality purposes), deception (later proof that the vows made were not made sincerely).

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Mistakes should not render a marriage void.

All marriages should be witnessed: they're not only for the couple, but for the community.

Failure to sign should render a marriage void: it's a failure to provide commitment.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

These should all be included. But you omit many other factors that may void a marriage, e.g. pre-existing (and continuing) marriages, ill intent (e.g. forcing, for nationality purposes), deception (later proof that the vows made were not made sincerely).

Consultation Question 59:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is about life together. Not requiring cohabitation would engender all manner of abuses, e.g. compulsion, marriage for inheritance and/or other privileges, marriages for nationality purposes.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because all these factors, taken together, show the commitment that marriage embodies.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Proof of wrongfulness in the marriage may take longer to come out. Equally, although proof may come out sooner, the couple may nevertheless try to make it work, which should be encouraged rather than capped by a time limit.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There are concerns which would have to be allayed before such weddings are permitted, e.g.

- The sick party is not in any way being coerced;
- There are no inheritance (or other rights/privileges, such as nationality or title) consequences that the sick party does not wish;
- It is truly in accordance with the sick party's will, e.g. being of sound mind and independent decision making - balanced by history, e.g. if they have been living together unmarried for years previously

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such interview should take place without the other interested parties present. There are concerns which would have to be allayed before such weddings are permitted, e.g.

- The sick party is not in any way being coerced;
- There are no inheritance (or other rights/privileges, such as nationality or title) consequences that the sick party does not wish;
- It is truly in accordance with the sick party's will, e.g. being of sound mind and independent decision making - balanced by history, e.g. if they have been living together unmarried for years previously

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't trivialise the marriage.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is, and should always remain, a life-long commitment.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is, and should always remain, a life-long commitment.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All these proposals for emergency provisions trivialise marriage and open the system wide for abuses.

1. Schedules and authority should only be lifelong, not time limited.

2-4: Opens marriage to coercion, illegal contracting of marriage, malign motives and motives and wrongful motives such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

No

Please expand on your answer:

All these proposals for emergency provisions trivialise marriage and open the system wide for abuses.

1. Schedules and authority should only be lifelong, not time limited.

2-4: Opens marriage to coercion, illegal contracting of marriage, malign motives and motives and wrongful motives such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Everyone is at risk of death, all the time, whether from heart attack, road traffic accident or something career/job related. The concept is too woolly to yield anything meaningful that avoids trivialising marriage.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If you go ahead, then yes; however going ahead would be wrong. This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If you go ahead, then yes; however going ahead would be wrong. This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Regardless of demand, it should not be permitted. This trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Permitting deviations from the schedule trivialises marriage and provides for a way to circumvent all other safeguards against abuses, coercion, malign and other wrongful motivations for the marriage such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be encouraged; people should not be penalised for circumstances outside of their own control.

It would be fairer to socialise these additional costs among the fees set for all weddings.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be encouraged; people should not be penalised for circumstances outside of their own control.

It would be fairer to socialise these additional costs among the fees set for all weddings.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this should be substantially less than the fees of a registry office wedding where the venue is effectively rented also.

This provision should be made in conjunction with permitting (only) established religions with established structures nominating their own registrars from among their ministers. Other religions should be prohibited from doing so because it would provide a loophole with which to circumvent safeguards against abuses such as coercion, illegal contracting of marriage, malign motives and motives and wrongful motives such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be encouraged; people should not be penalised for circumstances outside of their own control.

It would be fairer to socialise these additional costs among the fees set for all weddings.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be the same as for all other weddings. Marriage should be encouraged; people should not be penalised for circumstances outside of their own control.

It would be fairer to socialise these additional costs among the fees set for all weddings.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Your proposals all trivialise and de-value marriage, which is (and should remain) seen by all as the "gold standard" relationship, an aspiration and ideal that is achievable by all.

Marriage has moral and community aspects in addition to its legal, emotional and religious ones. Marriage is meaningless if not life-long and exclusive, and loses a great deal of its meaning if it's not open to raising a family.

Huge numbers of research studies world-wide have shown that marriage is the best framework in which to raise children, for the benefit of those children - and also for the benefit of both partners as they can be most confident in the ongoing nature of the relationship. Studies have also shown how marriage and family breakdown / abandonment harms society and community at large. The partners themselves gain greatly from the mutual commitment to tackle all the issues that life throws up, together and in total mutual trust and sharing, through all its ups and downs. It should not be devalued or trivialised in any way whatsoever.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Availability of locations is more than adequate currently - indeed, excessively so as it's already started on the slippery slope of trivialising marriage.

Marrying in places of worship should be encouraged: it adds a spiritual dimension to the mutual / family / community commitment. But only religious locations and ministers of established, well-structured religions should be allowed to conduct legal marriages (others should be encouraged to bless civil

marriages) in order to prevent abuses, and avoid creating loopholes around the prevention of abuses such as coercion, illegal contracting of marriage, malign motives and motives and wrongful motives such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Your proposals all trivialise and de-value marriage, which is (and should remain) seen by all as the "gold standard" relationship, an aspiration and ideal that is achievable by all.

Marriage has moral and community aspects in addition to its legal, emotional and religious ones. Marriage is meaningless if not life-long and exclusive, and loses a great deal of its meaning if it's not open to raising a family.

Huge numbers of research studies world-wide have shown that marriage is the best framework in which to raise children, for the benefit of those children - and also for the benefit of both partners as they can be most confident in the ongoing nature of the relationship. Studies have also shown how marriage and family breakdown / abandonment harms society and community at large. The partners themselves gain greatly from the mutual commitment to tackle all the issues that life throws up, together and in total mutual trust and sharing, through all its ups and downs. It should not be devalued or trivialised in any way whatsoever.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Your proposals all trivialise and de-value marriage, which is (and should remain) seen by all as the "gold standard" relationship, an aspiration and ideal that is achievable by all.

Marriage has moral and community aspects in addition to its legal, emotional and religious ones. Marriage is meaningless if not life-long and exclusive, and loses a great deal of its meaning if it's not open to raising a family.

Huge numbers of research studies world-wide have shown that marriage is the best framework in which to raise children, for the benefit of those children - and also for the benefit of both partners as they can be most confident in the ongoing nature of the relationship. Studies have also shown how marriage and family breakdown / abandonment harms society and community at large. The partners themselves gain greatly from the mutual commitment to tackle all the issues that life throws up, together and in total mutual trust and sharing, through all its ups and downs. It should not be devalued or trivialised in any way whatsoever.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Your proposals all trivialise and de-value marriage, which is (and should remain) seen by all as the "gold standard" relationship, an aspiration and ideal that is achievable by all.

Marriage has moral and community aspects in addition to its legal, emotional and religious ones. Marriage is meaningless if not life-long and exclusive, and loses a great deal of its meaning if it's not open to raising a family.

Huge numbers of research studies world-wide have shown that marriage is the best framework in which to raise children, for the benefit of those children - and also for the benefit of both partners as they can be most confident in the ongoing nature of the relationship. Studies have also shown how marriage and family breakdown / abandonment harms society and community at large. The partners themselves gain greatly from the mutual commitment to tackle all the issues that life throws up, together and in total mutual trust and sharing, through all its ups and downs. It should not be devalued or trivialised in any way whatsoever.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities are the best organisations to regulate and control marriage and its civil / legal recognition as they are "on the ground". By all means ensure national oversight in doing so, but the local authorities must take the lead and deliver/control all the related services.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Your proposals all trivialise and de-value marriage, which is (and should remain) seen by all as the "gold standard" relationship, an aspiration and ideal that is achievable by all.

Marriage has moral and community aspects in addition to its legal, emotional and religious ones. Marriage is meaningless if not life-long and exclusive, and loses a great deal of its meaning if it's not open to raising a family.

Huge numbers of research studies world-wide have shown that marriage is the best framework in which to raise children, for the benefit of those children - and also for the benefit of both partners as they can be most confident in the ongoing nature of the relationship. Studies have also shown how marriage and family breakdown / abandonment harms society and community at large. The partners themselves gain greatly from the mutual commitment to tackle all the issues that life throws up, together and in total mutual trust and sharing, through all its ups and downs. It should not be

devalued or trivialised in any way whatsoever.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is more than adequate currently - indeed, excessively lax already as it's already started on the slippery slope of trivialising marriage.

Marrying in places of worship should be encouraged: it adds a spiritual dimension to the mutual / family / community commitment. But only religious locations and ministers of established, well-structured religions should be allowed to conduct legal marriages (others should be encouraged to bless civil marriages) in order to prevent abuses, and avoid creating loopholes around the prevention of abuses such as coercion, illegal contracting of marriage, malign motives and motives and wrongful motives such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Your proposals all trivialise and de-value marriage, which is (and should remain) seen by all as the "gold standard" relationship, an aspiration and ideal that is achievable by all.

Marriage has moral and community aspects in addition to its legal, emotional and religious ones. Marriage is meaningless if not life-long and exclusive, and loses a great deal of its meaning if it's not open to raising a family.

Huge numbers of research studies world-wide have shown that marriage is the best framework in which to raise children, for the benefit of those children - and also for the benefit of both partners as they can be most confident in the ongoing nature of the relationship. Studies have also shown how marriage and family breakdown / abandonment harms society and community at large. The partners themselves gain greatly from the mutual commitment to tackle all the issues that life throws up, together and in total mutual trust and sharing, through all its ups and downs. It should not be devalued or trivialised in any way whatsoever.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law is more than adequate currently - indeed, excessively lax already as it's already started on the slippery slope of trivialising marriage.

Marrying in places of worship should be encouraged: it adds a spiritual dimension to the mutual / family / community commitment. But only religious locations and ministers of established, well-structured religions should be allowed to conduct legal marriages (others should be encouraged to bless civil marriages) in order to prevent abuses, and avoid creating loopholes around the prevention of abuses such as coercion, illegal contracting of marriage, malign motives and motives and wrongful motives such as obtaining rights to inheritance, power of attorney, nationality or titles.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Your proposals all trivialise and de-value marriage, which is (and should remain) seen by all as the "gold standard" relationship, an aspiration and ideal that is achievable by all.

Marriage has moral and community aspects in addition to its legal, emotional and religious ones. Marriage is meaningless if not life-long and exclusive, and loses a great deal of its meaning if it's not open to raising a family.

Huge numbers of research studies world-wide have shown that marriage is the best framework in which to raise children, for the benefit of those children - and also for the benefit of both partners as they can be most confident in the ongoing nature of the relationship. Studies have also shown how marriage and family breakdown / abandonment harms society and community at large. The partners themselves gain greatly from the mutual commitment to tackle all the issues that life throws up, together and in total mutual trust and sharing, through all its ups and downs. It should not be devalued or trivialised in any way whatsoever.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs for marriage should apply to all, equally; the additional costs of provision of services for those housebound etc. for reasons outside their control should be socialised among all marriage costs.

Marriage should never be profit-generating, and businesses / individuals should be prevented from any creative cost-allocation in charging; they should charge fees set by the local authority.

Apart from those housebound etc. for reasons outside their control, there should be charges (at cost) for attending other venues. These charges should always be substantially lower than those for renting the premises at a registry office, in order to encourage religious weddings as they add substantial spiritual and community value to the wedding and subsequent marriage.

Established religions with strong structures (only) should be permitted to nominate (with pre-approval guaranteed other than in exceptional

circumstances) venues and registrars - the registrars being selected from among their ordained/certified ministers.

Fees charged to couples are not high and therefore not a substantial impediment to marriage. They should remain that way.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD24-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 13:28:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Russell Sandberg

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:  
Cardiff University

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I am responding to this consultation as a law professor with expertise in the interaction between law and religion.

The reforms in the Law Commission's paper are much needed and would make a significant step forward. This is especially true in relation to the twin issues of religious ceremonies that do not comply with the requirements of the Marriage Act 1949 (often called 'unregistered religious marriages') and ceremonies conducted by belief organisations such as Humanists UK or by independent celebrants (often called 'non-religious marriages') which also lack



legal effect unless a civil ceremony under the Act has also taken place.

My research has argued that issues raised by these two different types of non-qualifying wedding ceremonies differ slightly. (This research will be published as R Sandberg, 'Religion and Marriage Law: The Need for Reform' (Bristol University Press, 2021). In relation to non-religious marriages, reform is needed in order to fill a gap in the Marriage Act which makes a firm distinction between civil marriage solemnised by State officials and religious marriages. By contrast, there is no such gap for religious marriages. The problem is not that religious marriages cannot be legally recognised under the Act. It is rather that the requirements required for such recognition indirectly discriminate against some religions: the requirements that the wedding must be inside a registered place of worship and that a prescribed choice of words must be used do not fit with some religious traditions. It is this that has led to some religious marriages in those traditions not complying with the requirements of the Marriage Act 1949. Moreover, while several calls for reform have acted on the presumption that unregistered religious marriages are problematic per se, that is not the case. Unregistered religious marriages can lead to discrimination, disadvantage and suffering – and there is a need for legal redress to be provided in such situations. However, this is not true of all unregistered religious marriages. There are various reasons why people enter into unregistered religious marriages. Some enter into religious marriages so that they can date. It allows them to be together without being chaperoned. A legally binding marriage would be inappropriate and premature. Unregistered religious marriages are not a problem where they are entered into wittingly and voluntarily. Autonomous and freely informed adults should be free to voluntarily enter into any intimate relationships. There is an argument that legal redress might need to be provided if that relationship changes over time in a way that causes a detriment to one of the parties: if one gives up work or goes part time to look after children or the other party, for instance. But other than that, if the unregistered religious marriage results from a free choice by both of the parties then that should be respected.

The Law Commission proposals will not completely solve either issue for two reasons: first, the Law Commission is hampered by its terms of reference meaning that, as it concedes, it can only mitigate the unregistered marriage issue; second, there are a few shortcomings in what the Law Commission proposes especially in relation to the definition of belief systems and the fact that independent celebrants are treated differently. This means that the Law Commission's proposals will not completely fulfil either of the two points of principle. Moreover, there is a significant risk that the Law Commission's recommendations may be cherry-picked by the Government rather than enacted in full. This would be disastrous given that the strength of the Law Commission's proposals is that it comes as a complete package.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The twin issues that I discussed above have come to the fore during the pandemic since exceptions made for marriages have not always applies to unregistered ceremonies and non-religious weddings. This has led to confusion but the fact that this has proved problematic and has caused governments to change the exceptions highlights the importance of such ceremonies and that it no longer makes sense that such ceremonies are not legally binding.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My general thoughts on this section: The emphasis upon the importance of preliminaries and the Law Commission's suggestions as to the modernisation of the process is sound. This would facilitate a minimalistic law on where and how marriages take place which would allow couples to personalise their ceremonies. This would also have the effect of mitigating the problem of unregistered marriages by removing obstacles that are currently in the way of those who seek a legally recognised marriage but are currently frustrated by the requirements of the Marriage Act 1949. The creation of the position of officiant and the focus on stringent rules as to preliminaries will enable equal and minimalistic regulation of where and how weddings take place. The creation of the position of officiant (who must be in attendance at all weddings but need not necessarily be the celebrant) would be an important step forward, providing a person to whom legal duties and responsibilities can be attached while recognising that marriages will be solemnised in different traditions in different ways.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I would be reluctant to allow this to take place remotely unless we were in a situation where weddings themselves were taking place remotely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I see no reason for not retaining this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think online publication is an excellent idea.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Given the issues raised by Covid, I would be inclined to go for 18 or 24 months.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I would be opposed to this on the practical point that some weddings may be conducted in churches where there is not regular worship.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, Anglican clergy should have the same powers and responsibilities as any other officiants.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I think the test should be whether the officiant is satisfied that the requirements have been met.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

If this option is not taken, then the same responsibilities, requirements and powers should still apply. Uniformity is key.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

My general views on this section is that the officiant system proposed is to be welcomed. The changes would mitigate the issue of unregistered religious marriages to the extent that the problem is caused by the current restrictions requiring a registered place of worship. The Law Commission proposals would also go some way to resolve issues concerning non-religious marriages by facilitating non-religious belief weddings on an equal basis to religious ones.

The Law Commission's proposed creation of the role of officiant to whom legal responsibilities, duties and powers will be attached is an excellent one. This change alone would make a considerable difference.

However, I have a number of concerns with the detail of what is being proposed in terms of who can be officiants. The Law Commission proposes a schema that deals with non-religious belief organisations (such as humanists) and independent celebrants differently. This separate treatment, caused by the terms of reference, is problematic if the nomination category is reserved to religion or belief organisations only. This is because the independent officiants groups would not be limited to representatives of a religion or belief. Once marriages can be solemnised by non-State officials who are not representing religion or belief organisations, it makes little sense to limit the organisations that can nominate to religion or belief organisations. A preferable approach would be to either open up nominations to organisations generally or to have a rigorous and effective definition of religion or belief and then to limit (or remove) the individual application route.

### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This sits oddly, however, with the proposed relaxation of the rules on religious content. Those proposals while laudable will make matters even more complicated and confusing and would be unnecessary if others forms of weddings (especially those by independent celebrants and religious and belief groups whose practices do not fit with the current law) are accommodated.

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It makes perfect sense for there to be consistency on this.

### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The paper notes that both the Church of England and the Church in Wales 'have generally accepted duties to conduct the weddings of their parishioners when called upon to do so' and this merits special treatment (para 5.77). The paper also points to the formal process of ordination and the internal discipline in those churches and states that in contrast 'within many religious traditions the question of who conducts a wedding is far more fluid' (para 5.84). However, this misses the point slightly: the difference is that in respect of the Church of England its processes of appointment and discipline are part of the law of the land. This leaves the Church in Wales in a slightly odd position: its differential treatment is legally justified on the basis that its general processes of appointment and discipline were formerly part of the law of the land but its specific role in relation to marriage has been preserved. This might leave the Church in Wales in a precarious position and this is something worth discussing with them.

### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with using a nomination system for organisations who wish to solemnise marriages.

However, I think that the paper is unduly critical of prescribed systems, especially since Anglican clergy would effectively remain prescribed. In my view, the need for a prescribed status category can be overcome by providing for State officials to be appointed and by the use of continuity provisions. Continuity provisions would ensure that religions that already solemnise marriages would be automatically included as nominating organisations and that individuals who already conduct marriages be automatically included as officiants subject to requirements for on-going training. The Guernsey model provides an excellent model in this regard. Provision would also need to be made so that Existing provisions concerning religious same sex marriages would continue to apply.

In my view, nominating organisations should not be limited to religion or belief organisations and would therefore also include umbrella organisation of independent celebrants and indeed any other organisation that wished to solemnise marriages. This would overcome the problems with the definitions of religion or belief and the question of whether and how independent celebrants can fit within the system. Such an approach would not place too much of a burden upon registration officials especially if continuity provisions are included so that religions that already marry are automatically included. Limiting the types of organisation who can nominate does not make sense once the system allows independent officiants to personally apply to be able to solemnise.

This might be seen as opening the floodgates to a large number of new organisations with no thresholds in place. Yet, the Law Commission's proposals which do limit nominating organisations to religion or belief organisations also suffers from this same problem in that the inadequate definition of belief and the low threshold imposed would also open the floodgates. Extending nominating organisations beyond religion or belief organisations would be preferable to the Law Commission's truly officiant focused approach for independent celebrants could place a significant burden on registration officials.

A threshold could be put in place by insisting that nominating organisations do not have the principal or sole purpose of solemnising marriages. This would follow the approach found in section 14 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 which defined 'belief organisation' as 'an organisation whose principal or sole purpose is the advancement of a system of non-religious beliefs which relate to morality or ethics' and the aspects of the Irish approach, though rather than using the term 'secular' recognition would simply be given to organisations. This would exclude organisations set up solely to solemnise marriages. This would not necessarily exclude independent celebrants provided that they carried out other services. This would address concerns about the commercialisation of weddings.

However, an argument could be advanced on human rights grounds that protection should only be afforded on grounds of religion or belief. If this was followed then it would be important to have a rigorous definition of religion or belief and a significant threshold. This needs to be counterbalanced against the risk of taking an overly conservative approach which would indirectly discriminate against new forms of religiosity or belief. The Irish model again would be a useful template in this regard. The law could require that the organisation has the principal or sole purpose of advancing a system of religious or non-religious beliefs and that they have a set number of adherents or have existed for a set number of years.

There may still be a need for individual applications by genuinely independent celebrants but that would be much reduced if the nominating system includes non-religious organisations and most independent celebrants. In terms of the individual application system, the Jersey and Guernsey systems provide a template of how this could be achieved with an individual application process for civil celebrants.

#### Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This parasitical use of the Hodkin definition is problematic in that not all non-religious belief systems may be 'secular' either in the common use of the word or in the sense it was used in Hodkin. Lord Toulson went on to say that 'by spiritual or non-secular I mean a belief system which goes beyond that which can be perceived by the senses or ascertained by the application of science'. Moreover, this parasitical definition tells us very little. It is a functional definition which reveals even less than the human rights and discrimination law jurisprudence on the definition of belief. The existing definition found in section 14 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, which speaks of 'an organisation whose principal or sole purpose is the advancement of a system of non-religious beliefs which relate to morality or ethics', would be preferable. It is noteworthy that despite adapting the Hodkin definition, the Law Commission accepts that it is not sufficient, noting that it needs to be considered 'whether the definition of a non-religious belief organisation should be limited further, by a list of exclusions of the types of group that would not qualify to nominate officiants, such as political parties, trade unions, or sporting organisations' (para 3.43) Similar issues have developed in the discrimination law case law and the definition found in section 14 of the 2013 Act would go some way to resolving them. Although the Law Commission's terms of reference state that they are bound by the definition in Hodkin, this does not mean that it should be the basis for defining non-religious beliefs.

Please share your views below:

I would use the Irish legislation - the Civil Registration Act 2004 - as a template.

'Secular body' is defined in section 45A as 'an organised group of people' which 'has not fewer than 50 members', where 'its principal objects are secular, ethical and humanist', its members 'meet regularly in relation to their beliefs', which does not have rules regarding marriage that contravene the law, has been in existence for a continuous period of not less than five years, 'does not have making a profit as one of its principal objects' and maintains a register of its members. The body must satisfy the authorities that it 'has appropriate procedures in writing for selecting, training and accrediting members as fit and proper persons to solemnise marriages'. Political parties, bodies that promote a political party, bodies that promote a political cause, trade unions and chambers of commerce are all excluded from the definition as are any bodies that promote purposes that are unlawful, contrary to public morality or policy, support terrorism or are for the benefit of an organisation membership of which is unlawful.

This provides a useful template of how a non-religious belief category could be defined but possibly without the rule forbidding political causes. It would also be wise to add a requirement that the the organisation must have a principal purpose other than the provision of legally recognised marriages and / or the training of celebrants for conducting such marriages.

#### Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The first requirement is that there is 'at least 20 members who meet regularly for worship or in furtherance of their beliefs'. This figure of 20 has been suggested because, although it 'might seem like a relatively low threshold, ... this has been the minimum figure for registering a place of worship for weddings for over 180 years without, as far as we know, causing any problems' (para 5.97). However, this requirement may not be appropriate for small groups or religions and belief systems who do not gather communally. The paper circumvents this by suggesting that a relaxed approach should be taken to its interpretation. It notes that this requirement 'will not pose problems for interfaith ministry groups' because although they 'do not generally hold large religious services for the public' their members communicate amongst themselves regularly and they provide pastoral care and so there are 'meetings to plan and provide support to one another in how they engage with the community are meetings in furtherance of their religious beliefs' (para 5.98). It is even suggested that this 'requirement could be satisfied by remote meetings amongst celebrants or the executive of the organisation in relation to community outreach and training of celebrants' (para 5.131). These examples show the inadequacy of this requirement. Insisting instead that the organisation has existed for a certain number of years, as many of the amendments and proposals discussed in the last chapter did, would also be a conservative approach but one that would be more appropriate.

The second requirement is that the organisation should have 'a wedding service or a sincerely held belief about marriage' (para 3.44). The purpose of this rule is to 'help to limit the power to nominate officiants to those groups that would genuinely intend to officiate at weddings' (para 5.99). It is unclear what the words 'genuinely intend' mean here; perhaps it is a reference to excluding sham marriages. But it is questionable whether sham marriages can be policed in this way given that the requirement would 'not be seen as any form of check by the state on the content of the ceremony' and would not stipulate 'the precise terms of that wedding service should have to be used in every case'. This would be an ineffective way of avoiding sham marriages given that there would invariably be some form of marriage service once officiants are appointed. Focusing organisation's beliefs about marriage seems to be an unnecessary and inappropriate imposition which goes against the Law Commission's insistence that the focus is now on officiants not organisations: determining whether an organisation has a belief about marriage could require the General Register Office to get into theological and doctrinal issues.

#### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The paper notes that 'while there is no specific exclusion of such groups under the current law, we understand that the General Register Office takes the view that it would be able to refuse to register the buildings of such groups for weddings, in the event that any applied' (para 5.100). It is unclear why this would need to be explicitly laid out in the case of bodies nominating individuals rather than bodies registering buildings. Making such an imposition again suggests that the Law Commission's schema is focused on organisations rather than officiants.

This and the other two proposed requirements discussed above in question 25 show the inadequacy of the definition of belief provided and risk providing a very low threshold of what would constitute a religion or belief. The inadequate definition of belief and the low threshold imposed would also open the floodgates. The definition already found in section 14 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 would be preferable and would provide some protection against beliefs being created solely to be included under the legislation. Alternatively, it may be questioned why nominating organisations should be limited to religion or belief organisations. The terms of reference discouraged the Law Commission from engaging with this question: they were tasked to create a system which could include non-religious belief and independent celebrant ceremonies and so did not consider a more expansive scheme. The Law Commission were prevented from discussing why non-religious belief and independent celebrant ceremonies should be included and where the line ought to be drawn.

#### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This would make sense.

#### Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this provision but think that it should be used sparingly, as discussed above.

Depending on how strict the requirements proposed turn out to be and how they are enforced they could either place a significant burden on registration officials or open the door to all kinds of celebrants which would have the effect of making the third category redundant, on the basis that if anyone could apply to be an independent officiant then there is no reason to limit nominating organisations to religion or belief organisations. There is also the question of why independent celebrants cannot be covered by the third category. The Law Commission rules this out simply on the basis that they 'are not aware of any jurisdiction in which celebrants can be nominated by a body that is neither a religious organisation nor a non-religious belief organisation' (para 5.139). The Law Commission concluded that:

'While there are organisations such as the Wedding Celebrancy Commission that could potentially act as a nominating body, allowing an organisation that was not a religious or belief organisation to nominate officiants would undermine the very point of having definitions of religion or belief and detract from the recognition of those organisations. In addition, not all independent celebrants are affiliated to an organization, and it might be a contradiction in

terms to require an “independent” celebrant to be a part of an organisation’.

The first reason given is diluted, however, by the inadequacy of the definitions of religion or belief discussed above. Given the difficulties of defining religion or belief, it may be preferable to open the definition to all organisations. Recognising independent celebrants without them even being a member of an organisation will already cross this line. Individuals will be able to solemnise marriages who are neither State employees nor representatives of religion or belief organisations. The Law Commission's fourth category is a pure example of an officiant-focussed approach and it leaves the third category looking quaint by comparison. It is likely that this fourth category will prove to be very popular. Indeed, if independent celebrants can go straight to the General Register Office then it could be asked, why should religion or belief officiants be denied that opportunity and be required to operate through their organisation and so be subject to further regulation concerning their organisation rather than themselves? Why should a religious leader of a faith of just nineteen members be denied the right to solemnise marriages while an independent celebrant who represents just themselves has that power?

In relation to the second reason (that some independent celebrants are truly independent), the paper does consider whether independent celebrants should be members of a professional organisation providing insurance or whether they should be required to take out insurance. It concludes that while being a member of a recognised trade body should not be a legal requirement, it ‘may help officiants to access the necessary training and continuing professional development’ (para 5.170). Similarly, it concludes that taking out individual insurance should not be a prerequisite but that ‘it seems a matter of good practice and professionalism to obtain such insurance’ (paras 5.171, 5.172). The fact that both the Association of Independent Celebrants and the Wedding Celebrancy Commission have such requirements suggests that there may be more scope for independent officiants to fall under the third heading, provided that nominated officiants are not limited only to religion or belief organisations. Indeed, if independent celebrants fell under the third heading then concerns about insurance would not arise and so it would be preferable for independent celebrants who are members of umbrella organisations to apply through their organisations. Stephanie Pywell's empirical research found that only 14% of her respondents were not members of a larger group. However, this is likely to be an underestimate of the number of truly independent celebrants, given her methodology which used the umbrella organisations as the point of contact (with one exception). It follows that there will be a minority of independent celebrants who do not belong to an umbrella organisation who could serve as the nominating body for the purpose of the third type of officiant. However, the lack of supervision might give reason not to include them. Even if they are to be included, that does not preclude the majority of independent celebrants being included under the third rather than fourth type of officiant, which would bolster the role of the umbrella organisation and reduce the burden and discretion placed upon the General Register Office or Registrar General. Indeed, the proposals to relax the rule on the use of religious content at civil weddings is likely to have the effect of reducing the number of independent celebrant ceremonies on the basis that Pywell's research suggests that their popularity arises from the way in which they alone at the moment can blend religious and non-religious content.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, under the supervision of the RG. And this is another reason why the fourth category should be used sparingly.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think these requirements should apply to all officiants.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this other than whatever the rule is it should apply to all officiants,.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this other than whatever the rule is it should apply to all officiants,.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is why the fourth category should be used sparingly.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - but it is worth noting that the Church of England will be in a different position given that its on practice can be imposed as part of the law of the land.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Although this sounds laudable, I think this new rule would be even more confusing and subject to varying interpretations and applications. The extension of marriage law to cover non-religious marriages including those by independent celebrants as well as those religions who find the current location requirements problematic will mean that this issue will be of less importance. However, the question of whether independent celebrant ceremonies are

'civil' may lead to this question arising.

Please share your views below:

Perhaps the preferable way of achieving this would be to revisit whether the civil-religious division is needed at all given that officiants are under a duty to ensure that the ceremony is dignified.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there is logic in stopping marriages by state officials in premises owned by religious or non-religious bodies - especially if that would mean on those groups losing out on the revenue that they would have if they conducted the ceremony.

The fact that buildings can be shared by different religious groups means that it would be possible for religious and non-religious bodies to share buildings or share access to such buildings and so legislation should not prevent this.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Continuity provisions should also be in place.

Please share your views below:

This should be the subject of a separate consultation.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Paper is correct to say that ‘this would go a long way towards addressing the key problem of religious-only marriages, where some individuals do not realise what is required and are left without any remedy at the end of a lengthy relationship’(para 10.63).

It is noticeable, however, that this would have made no direct difference to the outcome of *Akhter v Khan*. If the underlying principle is that unregistered marriages are of concern where there has not been a free and informed choice to opt out of legal protection then the Law Commission’s proposals will not go far enough. Their proposals mean that those who believe that the person officiating at the ceremony is authorised to solemnize a legal marriage will have a void marriage and be entitled to legal redress but this will not apply to those who have been promised a legally binding ceremony at some point (the *Akhter v Khan* situation) or where one party has been put under pressure by the other party not to have a legally binding ceremony. The current position that a marriage would be voidable where consent had been vitiated by duress, mistake, impaired mental capacity or similar other factors would remain unchanged but might not cover these situations (and did not cover the situation in *Akhter v Khan* ).

There is no doubt, however, that the system put forward by the Law Commission continues to be complex as shown by the fact that they seek to explain it using both a table and a diagram. However, an alternative way of conceptualising the proposals would be to say that the status of the marriage depends on the answers to three questions: (1) Have both parties given notice? (2) Have both parties given consent? (3) Do both or one of the parties believe that the officiant is authorised?

The Law Commission’s call to codify and simplify the law on validity should therefore be followed. The law as it currently stands is inconsistent and unprincipled. Rules on validity need to apply across all purported marriages. Yet, there is a need to go further than the Law Commission’s proposals.

A preferable approach would be to further simplify the law to require three elements for a valid marriage. A valid marriage will exist where both of the parties (1) give notice before the wedding, (2) believe that there is an authorised officiant at the wedding and (3) express consent at the wedding. A void marriage will exist where either (1) or (2) have not been met but the other two requirements have been met. A non-qualifying marriage will exist where (3) is not met and / or where both (1) and (2) have not been met. A marriage will be voidable where the consent is vitiated by duress, mistake, impaired mental capacity or similar other factors.

In particular, contrary to the Law Commission’s proposals, it should not be a valid marriage where only one of the parties believes that there is an authorised officiant at the wedding. The Law Commission suggest that such a marriage should be valid in order to protect the duped spouse. However, sufficient protection would be given if such a marriage was declared void.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Law Commission should, however, repeat its call for cohabitation reform. (vi) Limited and specific rights on separation for those who cohabit should be introduced, focussed on redressing advantages gained and disadvantages suffered as a result of the relationship, with opt-out provisions ensuring free choice is respected.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

No

Please expand on your answer:

When read in the context of the consultation paper as a whole, it is clear that this criminal offence proposal is a backstop which would simply prohibit officiants and pseudo-officiants from making misrepresentations. It would do nothing to give redress to the couple themselves. However, the risk in making such a recommendation is that the proposed criminal offence could be seen as a magic bullet solution (as the Independent Review and others saw similar offences). That is not what the Law Commission is proposing but on a glance of their proposals it is possible to erroneously assume this. It is vital that their proposed criminal offence is not seen in that way and not detached from the other proposals which will make much more of a difference.

The Law Commission contends that their proposed offence would 'reduce the likelihood of either of the couple being misled as to the nature of the ceremony and is 'intended to deter individuals from purporting to officiate at weddings when they are not authorised to do so' (para 10.188). These aims are laudable and logical in so far as it removes a possible gap in the law; though it may be questioned whether general criminal offences such as those found in the Fraud Act 2006 already criminalise such behaviour.

Moreover, the reference to deterring individuals from purporting to officiate shows that this proposed offence suffers from the same defect as the offence suggested in the Independent Review. There is no evidence to suggest that the problem of unregistered religious marriages is mainly attributable to rogue celebrants. Creating and clarifying the legal responsibilities of officiants, as the Law Commission suggests, will help to mitigate the number of unregistered religious marriages and will arguably do enough to get any rogue celebrants in line without the threat of criminal sanction. Such a possibility of criminal sanction will have a limited effect on the problem of unregistered religious marriages.

Recommending the enactment of new criminal offences should therefore be undertaken lightly since there is a risk that such provisions will be focused upon and erroneously seen as 'the answer'. Moreover, it is often the case that many proposed new criminal offences would penalise behaviour that is already a criminal offence. This means that rather than suggesting that a new criminal offence is created, it would be preferable to amend existing criminal offences to make it clear that they apply to the situations that need to be criminalised. There are three such amendments that need to be made. It could be argued that at least some of these are at most clarifications in that the situation is already probably covered by the existing offence. The need for an amendment could therefore be questioned. However, for clarity, it would be preferable that this was explicitly laid out, whether in a new law or by amending the original criminal provisions. The three amendments are as follows:

#### (1) Forced Marriages

Under section 121(1) of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, it is an offence in England and Wales for a defendant to use violence, threats or any other form of coercion for the purpose of causing another person to enter into a marriage where the defendant believes, or ought reasonably to believe, that the conduct may cause the other person to enter into the marriage without free and full consent. The defendant's actions need not be directed at the victim (s121(6)). Under section 121(2), where the victim lacks capacity to consent (as defined under the Mental Capacity Act 2005) the offence is 'capable of being committed by any conduct carried out for the purpose of causing the victim to enter into a marriage (whether or not the conduct amounts to violence, threats or any other form coercion)'. Under section 121(3), it is an offence where the defendant practises any form of deception with the intention of causing another person to leave the United Kingdom, and intends the other person to be subjected to conduct outside the United Kingdom that would be an offence under section 121(1) or would have been so had the victim been in England and Wales.

Section 121(4) states that "“marriage” means any religious or civil ceremony of marriage (whether or not legally binding)", providing rare statutory

recognition of non-qualifying marriages. The Law Commission consultation paper noted that this means that 'forcing someone into a religious-only marriage is potentially a criminal offence'. However, they noted that there would be 'no implications for the status of the marriage' and that the existence of the provision therefore does not 'provide much assistance in deciding when a religious-only ceremony should be recognised for the purpose of financial provision'. This is true. Providing a remedy on relationship breakdown is not the purpose of the offence. However, this does not mean that the offence cannot be useful in terms of discouraging and prohibiting the use of violence, threats or any other coercion to cause another person to enter into a marriage. The offence as drafted clearly criminalises the situation where one party is forced into a civil or religious marriage ceremony. It would not, however, seem to cover the situation where someone is forced not to have a civil wedding ceremony.

## (2) Coercive Control

Under section 76(1) of the Serious Crime Act 2015, it is an offence for a person (A) to repeatedly or continuously engage in behaviour towards another person (B) that is controlling or coercive, where at the time of the behaviour A and B are personally connected, the behaviour has a serious effect on B, and A knows or ought to know that the behaviour will have a serious effect on B. Section 76(2) states that A and B are personally connected if they are in 'an intimate personal relationship' or if they live together and are members of the same family or have previously been in an intimate personal relationship with each other. Under section 76(4), behaviour is deemed to have a 'serious effect' on B if it causes B to fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against B, or it causes B serious alarm or distress which has a substantial adverse effect on B's usual day-to-day activities. It is a defence under section 76(8) if it can be shown that in engaging in the behaviour in question, A believed that he or she was acting in B's best interests and the behaviour was in all the circumstances reasonable. This does not apply in relation to behaviour that causes B to fear that violence will be used against B. This defence will apply if the contrary is not proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Section 76(6) states that A and B are members of the same family if they are, or have been, married to each other; they are, or have been, civil partners of each other; they are relatives; they have agreed to marry one another; they have entered into a civil partnership agreement; they are both parents of the same child; or they have, or have had, parental responsibility for the same child. The provision in section 121(4) of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which makes it clear that marriage for this purpose includes any marriage ceremony whether or not it is legally binding could be helpfully duplicated here.

This offence can complement the law on forced marriage by articulating what constitutes coercive behaviour in intimate adult relationships. It can also be of use in terms of discouraging such behaviour. This offence has already been used in the context of religious marriages. In January 2020 it was reported that a Jewish wife had launched a private prosecution under section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 against her ex-husband who denied her a religious divorce (a get). The judge accepted an application for the State to fund prosecution costs but the case was discontinued after the ex-husband gave the get. The fact that the prosecution did not go ahead means that it is unknown whether this action or one like it would be successful (and whether it would apply to religious-only marriages)

## (3) Fraud

The offences discussed so far would criminalise the situation where the defendant forces or coerces the claimant to enter into a non-qualifying marriage. Yet, in the debate on the problem of unregistered religious marriages, more attention has been afforded to the perceived need to criminalise the actions of the celebrant (or officiant under the Law Commission's schema). For some, there is a need to criminalise all religious marriages that take place without or before a marriage following the requirements of the Marriage Act 1949 take place. However, not only would this criminalise unregistered religious marriages that take place voluntarily but it would also criminalise other marriage ceremonies that currently take place that are not under the Marriage Act 1949 such as those by humanist and independent celebrants.

The Law Commission's paper is particularly useful in articulating the gap where an offence might be needed. Such an offence, however, is already covered by the provisions of the Fraud Act 2006. Section 2 provides for the offence of fraud by false representation. This applies where the defendant dishonestly makes a false representation, and intends, by making the representation to make a gain for himself or another, or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk of loss. This could cover the situation where the defendant either is an officiant or purports to be an officiant and dishonestly makes a false representation as to the status or the effect of the ceremony intending to make a gain for himself or another, or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk of loss. It might be useful to clarify in any legislation seeking to deal with unregistered religious marriage that this scenario would be covered by the law on fraud. Such an approach would also reduce the risk that recommendations relating to new criminal offences are seen as the main or only solution to the issue.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense on grounds of uniformity and clarity.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are very sensible and needed provisions.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no views on this.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It is difficult to dispute that the law on marriage in England and Wales is antiquated and in need of reform. English and Welsh marriage law is inconsistent, unprincipled and discriminatory. It not only stipulates different rules for different religious groups but also excludes certain religious and non-religious practices. The law singles out marriages according to the rites of the Church of England, the Society of Friends and Jews. All other religious marriages must take place in a registered building in order to be legally recognised, therefore excluding groups who either do not have such buildings or whose traditions involve marriage ceremonies elsewhere such as outside, in the home or at a community venue. Couples who enter into these so-called 'unregistered religious marriages' (that is, religious marriages that do not comply with the requirements of marriage law) lack legal redress on relationship breakdown or death of a partner and so can only make use of religious tribunals such as Sharia Councils. They are in the same legal position as cohabitants.

This has been borne out by academic research, including my own work. Empirical studies conducted have highlighted the problem of unregistered religious marriages. For instance, the 'Social Cohesion and Civil Law' project conducted at Cardiff University found that over half of the cases dealt with by the Sharia Council in the study involved couples who did not have legally binding marriages. The research expressed concern that such litigants have very limited remedies under English civil law on relationship breakdown and that they often did not realise that this was the case: they assumed that their religious marriage had legal effect under State law. It also pointed out that whilst those who had legally binding marriages had a choice of remedies on relationship breakdown in that they could use State law or the Sharia Council, those in unregistered religious marriages either had to resolve the issues themselves or use the Sharia Council. This lack of choice is problematic given that other commentators have pointed to discrimination on grounds of gender that occurs within religious tribunals.

Reform of the law is needed because a number of wedding ceremonies currently take place outside the legal framework. Many of the couples who have such ceremonies consider themselves married at the end of it but they are only married in the eyes of the law (and benefit from the legal rights that come with marriage) once they undergo a further ceremony in the register office. This includes not only unregistered religious marriages but also ceremonies by non-religious bodies and celebrants: Humanists UK alone conducts around 1,000 ceremonies a year and a recent study estimated that independent celebrants conduct 10,000 ceremonies a year in England and Wales, but these ceremonies are also not currently legally binding.

Reform is needed to deal with these issues. In relation to non-religious marriages, there is a need to give marriages conducted by belief organisations and independent celebrants legal effect. However, if ceremonies by independent celebrants are made legally binding then there is no reason to restrict the organisations who can conduct weddings to religious or belief organisations. In relation to unregistered religious marriages, a step forward would be provided by removing the obstacles which currently indirectly discriminate against some religious groups by insisting that such marriages must take place in a place of religious worship and use prescribed words in order to be legally binding in their own right. This would be likely to reduce the numbers of unregistered religious marriages. However, such marriages are not always problematic. Where they result from a free and deliberate choice then the decision not to comply with legal formalities should be respected. Banning such marriages, requiring that they always follow a legal ceremony or penalising those who conduct such ceremonies would therefore be inappropriate and counterproductive, forcing such unions further into the shadows.

However, this does not mean that there is no role for English law. Legal redress should be provided to those in unregistered religious marriages where the failure to comply with registration requirements is unwitting or is not truly voluntary on the part of one of the parties. Education and awareness raising has an important part to play here but this would be aided considerably if the legal framework was accessible and principled. And ultimately there is a role for law here in terms of providing backstops whereby some redress can be given to those who unwittingly or involuntarily enter into unregistered religious marriages. Reform of the law of validity to make some unregistered religious marriages void could provide such a backstop and there is a limited role for some criminal offences. However, the most important backstop that could be provided is by providing some limited cohabitation rights of the type that exist in neighbouring jurisdictions

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on costs other than that there ought to be consistency. The necessity and costs of having a separate, legally recognised marriage is one reason why reform is needed to remove the indirectly discriminatory provisions currently found in the Marriage Act.

Several calls for reform have acted on the presumption that unregistered religious marriages are problematic per se. They have sought to ban all unregistered religious marriages by prohibiting religious ceremonies that occur before legal ceremonies and / or by penalising those who conduct them. I do not agree with such an approach. Unregistered religious marriages can lead to discrimination, disadvantage and suffering – and there is a need for legal redress to be provided in such situations. However, this is not always the case. There are various reasons why people enter into unregistered religious marriages. Some enter into religious marriages so that they can date. It allows them to be together without being chaperoned. A legally binding marriage would be inappropriate and premature. For others, however, the unregistered religious marriage may be caused by the strictness of current marriage laws with couples unable to have the ceremony that manifests their beliefs under the legal restrictions meaning that a separate legal ceremony is needed afterwards and may never occur. For some, the unregistered religious marriage exists because of an unawareness that such a ceremony is not legally binding. And for some, there is pressure or coercion to only undergo an unregistered religious marriage ceremony.

Unregistered religious marriages are not a problem where they are entered into wittingly and voluntarily. Autonomous and freely informed adults should be free to voluntarily enter into any intimate relationships that wish to. There is an argument that legal redress might need to be provided if that relationship changes over time in a way that causes a detriment to one of the parties: if one gives up work or goes part time to look after children or the other party, for instance. But other than that, if the unregistered religious marriage results from a free choice by both of the parties then that should be respected.

I would argue that legal change is needed to reflect two points of principle. The first is that legal redress should be provided to those in unregistered religious marriages but only where the failure to comply with registration requirements is unwitting or is not truly voluntary by one of the parties. The second is that non-religious ceremonies (such as those conducted by humanist organisations) and ceremonies conducted by independent celebrants

should be legally binding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Although this submission has expressed concern at the details, especially concerning the definition of belief, whether organisations other than religion or belief organisations should be included and whether differential treatment of independent celebrants is sound, the Law Commission's radical and comprehensive proposals would provide a solution to the concerns expressed about the current non-recognition of non-religious marriages. The general direction of travel proposed and the changes to preliminaries, ceremony and location are sound and much-needed.

These proposals also have a significant effect upon decreasing the number of unregistered religious marriages. The proposed changes as to validity, though still perhaps overly complex, would also help to achieve this, increasing the circumstances where weddings that are not legally recognised will be void rather than non-qualifying with the result that financial relief can be then provided on the breakdown. And the proposed criminal offence would support and enhance the officiant-focus but would do little to redress the problem of unregistered religious marriages. Overall, the Law Commission's proposals do not provide a singular magic bullet solution but a number of changes which individually and cumulatively would provide a significant degree of mitigation of the problem. It will therefore be vital that their proposals are not interpreted as a menu of options to cherry pick from. The consultation paper could be clearer in underlining this, but it does recognise that the proposals suggested will mitigate rather than solve the unregistered marriage issue.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no views on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no views on this.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no views on this

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I think it will be vital that these reforms do not increase the costs for couples. If those who seek a non-religious or religious ceremony that does not comply with the Marriage Act no longer have to pay for a second ceremony then that will be a significant cut in their costs.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6Z-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 13:30:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The proposals need to define what is meant by dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony.

Couples should not depart from making the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony, any other course would undermine the solemnity of the ceremony and deny the seriousness of the commitment being made.

The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them if required.

The use of specific phrases show that people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

Society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration that the couple are entering a union which is understood by society to have been legally defined.

Marriage is not entirely a private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

The ceremony should be appropriate for such a significant event and should reflect the seriousness of the event.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement was introduced as a protection against forced marriage.

This is still a problem in our society.

Removing the requirement encourages the false impression that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should reflect the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The wedding ceremony should only be held at venues which reflect the solemnity and seriousness marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety".  
These terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

No

Please expand on your answer:

These terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDY-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 13:55:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Because I have a right to privacy, these are my personal beliefs and opinions, not necessarily that of others. I would not normally discuss these publicly.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should only be abolished if the marriage is to take place in the hometown of one of the marriage "couple" and they are returning there to get married.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A minimum of 7 days with an option for this to be extended where there is a suspicion that it is a marriage of "convenience". For example for someone to obtain a British passport, so that under these circumstances the situation can be investigated first.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The face to face interview should not be scrapped, as done remotely there is more scope for sham marriages to slip through the system.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as the banns are still displayed publicly in the traditional way.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

6 months would be a more realistic time scale

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes unless they already have an amended second schedule as outlined in Q11

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be required by law.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be required, everything to protect against forced or sham marriages should be either upheld or put in place.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There would have to be a list or it would be unclear.

Consultation Question 25:

No



Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe 20 is sufficiently large enough a number as this number could easily be raised by two "families" who wish to form their own "belief" system for the purpose of setting up a "marriage" organisation. The number should be based on the national size of any organisation, so a figure of 200 would be more realistic.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No as this would open too many risks to abuse

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only in organisations above a certain size say 5000 members and having been established for a period of no less than say five years.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants should not be approved, but if they are should not be allowed to make a business out of it.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Dignity and solemnity should be defined in law , the officiant should be legally responsible for ensuring the marriage is carried out in a dignified and solemn manner as is fitting for the seriousness of the commitment being undertaken.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

So an officiant could in fact become senile and still be legally allowed to conduct a marriage ceremony big nobody reports that they are senile. The registration should have to be renewed say every 5 years.

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow couples to be married without being present at the marriage ceremony, this removing "dignity and solemnity". Simply signing the marriage schedule is not enough. Also the prescribed words should not be removed, entering into marriage is a serious commitment recognised around the world by all mankind. It is not a game. To say a few words enshrined in law enhances the "dignity and solemnity" of the ceremony and shows commitment to the marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This simply takes away from the seriousness of the commitment. It also removes any requirement of dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding declarations are of a public nature, and should remain so. Open doors were introduced to reduce the risk of forced marriages, still a problem today. Removal would only add to this problem.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How could a marriage ceremony in say McDonalds be deemed "dignified and solemn". Yes there is a need for certain exceptions, the person in hospital who cannot leave their bed and was due to be married, and is now facing end of life. The church who regularly meet in a school hall each Sunday. etc . But as to the group of friends dressed as chipmunks in the local cemetery, would this be dignified, I sincerely doubt it. There should of be prescribed requirements relating to venues, dignity, solemnity, safety, etc.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are publicly accessible for the actual marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The kind of venue should be prescribed in law as being dignified and safe, and publicly accessible. It could then be approved by the officiant.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What is the definition of safe and dignified. The definition is not given, safeguards should be put in place to maintain dignity, solemnity, safety and public access to the marriage ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Venues could apply for an approval certificate from the local registry office. To be renewed annually.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

English, or both. Unless Wales gets independence.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would remove some of the solemnity from the proceedings.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Factor 2) There should always be a requirement for witnesses, it is a legal commitment. It is also another safeguard against forced marriages.

Factor 3) The schedule or marriage document should always be signed (or marked in some way) and the marriage registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The terms would have to be more explicit than above. Option 1 yes, option 2 under what circumstances. Option 3 NO, the armed forces have chaplains etc so marriages can be performed overseas in action, this could maybe be changed to where one member of the couple is serving in the armed forces overseas and cannot return home for the marriage ceremony.  
Option 4, as option 3, where 1 member is serving overseas.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only for members of the armed forces in active service and at risk of death.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF67-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 14:01:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn, binding agreement and should not be entered into on a whim but after long and careful consideration. Seven days is insignificant in a lifetime.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why the haste? See explanation above.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

minimum

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It seems sensible to publish in both churches where the persons to be married worship.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree. If there is nothing to hide this should not be an impediment.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree. this is sensible. You can't trust anyone these days.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

It it ain't broke don't fix it.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be the facility to review in case the officiant's situation has changed through health (e.g. dementia, ) or some other unforeseen event.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This depends upon the development. More and more "moral" law is being abandoned to "popular" law forced upon the general population. Just because the majority approve of a law does not mean that it is "right".

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For one thing it is not asking too much that some specific phrases are used to show that both persons freely consent to a lifetime commitment.

Marriage is an important institution, the bedrock of society, it should not be possible to enter into this solemn arrangement by being absent from the ceremony itself.

If these proposals are followed either member of the couple will be permitted to stay silent or say anything the like which will undermine commitment. In court, or any other swearing-in ceremony are people allowed to say nothing or gabble on? No! So why should marriage be different? This is not just a private contract between two persons but a contract with society at large and should be treated as such.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest, it should not be left to private individuals to pick and choose. It is a serious and lifetime commitment and should be treated as such.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If you want a civil ceremony, that is what you should have. If your Faith is important and you want a ceremony that takes this into account this should be so. You should not be able to pick and mix. You can't sit on the fence.

Please share your views below:

None at all. Individuals have to make a choice. They should not be able to pick and mix.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Not unless this takes the form of a blessing, as a result of the couple having recognised that their wedding is lacking something by not including God in it.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is an invitation to forced marriage which is becoming more common.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such solemn events. This proposal is another way of chipping away at the seriousness of the institution of marriage and more likely that those that use them feel they can get out of a lifetime contract with the slightest excuse.

Please share your views below:

None for reasons above. The seriousness of the ceremony is being downgraded.  
Would we like to see the Queen coronated on a barge on the Thames?

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why. What is there to hide?

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why would they want to? Civil = non religious, and vice versa. Make your choice and stick with it. You should not pick and mix.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is allowing the wedding to take place anywhere. For reasons explained above this belittles and downgrades the importance of marriage both for society and the individuals concerned.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is very vague. One person's idea of dignified could be completely different from another's. There should be far greater guidance as to what this means.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why is this necessary if it can be done as part of the ceremony as it is at present?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there was no consent, the marriage should be null and void if this comes to light at all. Why time limit it?

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF68-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 14:09:32

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable: individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an institution created by God and it is not really any business of the law.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This alteration would make forced or arranged marriages even easier to carry out.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I do not agree to this proposal

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the proposal only applies to Anglican weddings

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As long as it only affects Anglican weddings I don't care what you do

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Anywhere' is too broad a description.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Weddings should only be permitted on terra firma: the type of structure (or absence of any structure) is of no importance.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If you allow weddings to take place in private places you cannot prevent forced or arranged marriages.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It does not matter where they take place as long as there shall not be any right for a couple to demand to wed in a place where the owners of the place object. For example a couple shall not have any right in law to demand that their non religious ceremony is performed in a church.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Locations shall be on a list of approved types of places for weddings and the officiant shall ensure the place chosen is on such a list The officiant must not be the one who approves or otherwise a specific place.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe - yes. Dignified is too wide a definition for the officiant to decide on

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any place which regularly hosts or wishes to host weddings should be on the list of places mentioned earlier, which could contain notes to say (for example) 'this venue unsuitable for disabled persons' or 'not suitable for children'

Please share your views below:

Responsibility of General Register Office which may need to expand resources

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 Date - yes

2 Location - yes

3 Parents - optional ( it is of no importance who the parents are except on Birth Certificates.)

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Documents shall be in English; additional text in other languages permissible

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but there must still be hard (paper) copies

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1,2,3 yes

4 I do not recognise such things as a marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

1 yes

2 no

3 no

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What the law thinks is of no importance - as it says in the usual wedding service "what GOD has joined together...." the law can judge whether a wedding took place according to its man-made rules, but it has no right to deny a marriage which may be valid by God's rules.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For example in cases where minors may be involved no limit should apply.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

May require an exceptional 'over-ride' of the rules on suitable places etc.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but in conjunction with relevant medical authorities

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I do not see any reason why any wedding should need to be carried out on water.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Local authority - No

Government body - Yes

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF66-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 14:17:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Consultation Question 89:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDM-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 14:26:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

No organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No...in the churches where the couple currently attend or in their parish church

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if it helps to prevent sham marriages

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Attendance could be difficult in all circumstances. My son was abroad in the Army almost up to the day of his marriage. Since there was a war going on he could not absent himself, fly home to attend. Perhaps an Anglican chaplain could take the declaration?

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to pressure or corruption if its a sham wedding

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a historical basis of the CofE being the foundational church in the UK. Any change opens up the situation to a free-for-all with potentially wrong people and wrong doing being perpetrated.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Secular organisations do not generally believe in an after-life where the soul will or will not reside with God. So, although they may bring some temporal comfort to followers, they do not offer a public benefit of guidance on how to live at peace with assurance from the moment of faith until death, nor the assurance to know that after death their souls are in communion with God in his presence.

Jesus's birth, death and resurrection are historical facts to substantiate this. What compelling facts do secular organisations offer?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What is meant by dignity and solemnity?

I said "yes" but the officiant also needs to ensure the dignity and solemnity of the wedding service. This may also go as far as saying how and where the ceremony is held

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How do I know that the GRO will not become a free-for-all liberal establishment with very poor guidance.

All weddings should ensure that the solemnity and dignity of this union are properly reflected in all aspects of the service ...ie: location, proper recognition and approvals, proper persons to officiate etc ..

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No one should get married without being at the service. Simply signing a piece of paper undermines the solemnity of the union

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a seriousness about a wedding service which should be reflected in how it is conducted. There are public and state interests about the future union which again should be reflected in the manner of the service. Allowing couples to pick and choose what goes on could end up with Disneyland approaches to what is meant to have serious implications and consequences in law (tax, inheritance etc...).

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sham and forced marriages are still a problem in UK society. This open door rule should not be removed because marriage is a public and state matter not just private.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Where is the dignity and solemnity of holding a service in McDonalds or a motorway lorry park or some other whacky place? Everything about a wedding should be dignified

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Without a clear definition of what is safe and dignified, it's not possible to answer this.  
Safe and secure safeguards should be stringently applied.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Marriage reflects a firm commitment by the couple to love and care for each other.

I don't see the current law discouraging that. If it does, then one questions the extent of the commitment.

Your proposals do not reflect the need for solemnity, dignity, public awareness, commitment etc... Therefore you are proposing a diminished form of marriage.

The objective may be to see more marriages but not just for the sake of it with an "anything goes" attitude.

The current process is important because if it cements the commitment more firmly, then societal benefits improve eg: long lasting, happy marriages; securer and better environment for children to grow up in; example to other couples; reduction in victim support homes, separations, divorce, abandonment; avoidance of disinheritance in common law partnerships etc...

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs are not the issue in church or registry office weddings. Consider how much is spent on all the other wedding costs.

In church weddings many clergy have the approval of the PCC to discount some costs depending on the poverty of the couple in question.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The problem is that while a church may, if judged, reduce some costs, the state via the registry office is hampered by its inflexibility. That's where the problem lies.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Free for all vs. a dignified approach to this union

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Most churches require at least 6 months attendance at the marrying church (if not already members of the congregation). The reason is to reflect the sacred nature of this commitment and the seriousness with which the couple should view it.

So if travelling from elsewhere and not fulfilling this requirement, the only other dispensation is that they have a strong association with the church by other means eg: grandparents, parents married there; baptised there etc..

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6W-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 14:33:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea of marriage is to show that you are, even if temporarily, part of society which exists in a location.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Entering into marriage and maintaining it requires effort; removing responsibilities from the process does not help to re-inforce this.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period would be beneficial to allow time for reflection on a serious matter.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Possible in some circumstances.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Only when absolutely necessary

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I assumed that banns had to be read in an Anglican church. I don't know if there are any in Scotland, Ireland or Northern Ireland.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why bother?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The idea of banns is to allow the congregation to pray for the couple, so should be read in as many churches as possible.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No reason to meet separately if they are entering into a lifelong committed partnership.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

If the Anglican church remains established, then their preliminaries should continue to be legal.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No guarantee that they have any understanding of religious commitment.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Non-religious belief organisations may be cults. Couples who are not religious should accept the civil authority.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not in favour of this at all.

Please share your views below:

Just making it too difficult; non-religious organisations should not be allowed.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Morality has fashions; this could amount to totalitarian control.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That should be decided by the civil authority

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a legally set fee

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this does not go far enough; it is a vague definition. They should be obliged to officiate in a recognised and licensed location

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not just guidance, it should be obligatory

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above - should be regulated by civic authority

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

People can become unfit to exercise this office

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an official form of words for everyone which is legally binding.

Couples can add to this if required.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a universal agreed form which is central, and which can be added to according to religion/taste.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Anything in accordance with the law of the UK

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

|Weddings could take place anywhere; it needs to be in a fixed location showing commitment to society and the possibility of witnesses standing close by.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a commitment to society, not simply a private contract.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

As above

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not simply a private matter, it is a contract with society.

Consultation Question 50:

No

Other

No

Please expand on your answer:

that would be the judgement of the religious venue

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be clear legal requirements.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be optional - a restaurant could become a strip joint

Please share your views below:

1. General Register Office
2. That's your job

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Welsh is not internationally recognised, English is

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pandemic conditions suggest this would be required

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF65-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 14:56:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My wife and I have been married for 57 years and possess the Marriage Certificate!

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We have not been able to attend the one wedding to which we were invited!

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the marriage parties are known locally and are committed to the marriage by submitting valid and local addresses.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The place of marriage in the UK society is so important that the notice to marry should require the parties to attend for registration

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The period should be 14 days so that the whole marriage activity can be taken seriously and responsibly.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The interview should be face to face so that the seriousness of the parties can be established. This would also give the chance to identify a possible sham marriage.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

For any party not living in the UK the party not in the UK should visit a recognised legal professional to establish their right to marry a person from the UK. Where both live in the UK they should, together, visit the registrations office together.

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should also be posted in the local 'office'.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The celebrant should be recognised by the Registrar as licenced to officiate

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is a reasonable point but the answer above must apply!

Please share your views below:

They should be confined to the current marriage only.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the notice of the wedding is posted in the local Registration Office

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published in the churches closest to the home addresses of the two persons getting married.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes the minister should see every relevant document that applies. He or she should personally meet the two persons intending to marry.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It is crucial that both covenanting parties understand the permanency of the marriage union

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The law must establish that the parties are serious and committed.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure that the law is obeyed.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is both reasonable and sensible

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They are also able to establish the seriousness of the parties.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They are able to establish the character of the officiator

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's important to establish their credentials

Please share your views below:

Yes there should be. It must be established that the non religious officiator has a right view of the permanency and commitment of marriage.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, of course!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The officiant should be a recognised person of upright character and known for some time to the organisation

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the register office should have an approved list from the organisation non religious

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing all necessary checks are made.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be required to undergo a vetting procedure carried out by the Registrar

Consultation Question 32:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

That is just and right. The officiant must be Registrar approved and known as a person of proven upright character.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the seriousness of marriage demands this!

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The celebrant should also ensure that the dignity and tone of the ceremony uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage. This must not be 'watered down'.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the task of the Registrar to do this.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They must have 'the final say'.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be interviewed every two years to re-establish their trustworthiness.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married if they are not present at the ceremony. Simply signing the document is not adequate. Couples would be able to say anything they liked and this would be a major departure from the public declarations that are key to marriage. There is already a large degree of flexibility in the ceremony.

It is important that the ceremony rightly reflects the seriousness of the agreements being made.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This ceremony must always be treated seriously and to allow people to choose their own form of words undermines the seriousness of what is happening.

The ceremony should always be held in an appropriate place that reflects the occasion.

Many of the places chosen by the two parties (in the sky, in a theme park, etc) can dilute the seriousness of the matter and do not do the matter justice.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whoever conducts the ceremony must emphasise the seriousness of the matter being entered into and that marriage is for life.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many wish to cement their marriage in a religious setting and this choice should remain.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open Doors demonstrate the public nature of the wedding and allow all to raise objections in such are required.

Open Doors guard against forced marriage.

Removing this point encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without public commitment.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be in recognised buildings that reflect the solemnity of the marriage vows.

Please share your views below:

Venues should not be permitted because the couple wants them. The marriage should be recognised as a lifelong commitment for the two parties.

A wedding in say, Macdonalds, would greatly devalue the wedding vows and seriousness of the matter.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be publically accessible to all.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue should always recognise the seriousness of the lifetime relationship being entered into.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should always be held in a recognised building.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The local registrar must authorise the location to ensure that it is suitable.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Always

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All should be registrar approved.

Please share your views below:

The registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should all be done at the time of the ceremony with the parties and the witnesses present.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This respects the nationality of the parties.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should always be done manually and at the time of the ceremony

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Co-habitation must always follow marriage

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Every marriage that has been contracted should be saved, if at all possible.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness of the marriage bond must always be emphasised

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is just and preserves the seriousness of marriage

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should only take place when a registrar can be present to establish that the marriage is lawful

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Buildings only please.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And only suitably trained and approved officers.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be done within a fixed period of time. Say 60 days.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Everything should be done to recognise the seriousness of the marriage vows

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6E-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 15:15:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a legally binding contract that should be notified to and seen by the public.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

They must be face to face to avoid sham and forced marriages

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Online is not available to everyone

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only in the circumstances as mentioned

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As now in both parishes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes both to attend

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should only be Anglican minister or registry office

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Exclude

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Anglican or Registrar only

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican priest or registrar only

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registrar only

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican priests or registrar only

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage should be in public and the consent and no impediments declaration should also be made to everyone.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That is too wide a statement. The dignity and public attendance at the marriage should be upheld.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous comments

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should take place with dignity in public either in church a registered place or the registry office.

Please share your views below:

None of the above. see answer to previous question

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must be available to the public

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should only take place in places as in 48 above

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer and 48 above

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The registry office should approve

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be in English or both

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Too vague a statement

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage must be public, therefore there must be witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be in public between the two people face to face

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be in public at an approved and registered place

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No As 69 above only

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too vague a requirement

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The meaning and legal significance of marriage has been continually reduced by government over the past 10 years. Most of the issues raised in this consultation reduce it further.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cost is not the driver regarding marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not think any of the proposals helps

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See answers above

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

There would be no additional cost if there were no changes.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF63-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 15:16:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I'm pleased that such a responsibility is recognised. However, such a duty is being limited to the conduct of the officiant; I'm also very concerned about the content of the ceremony.

Marriage is fundamental to the welfare of society. What do the terms 'dignity' and 'solemnity' actually mean? What precisely is necessary for a marriage ceremony to have dignity? What makes such a ceremony a solemn occasion?

Needless to say, before marriage was redefined it was clear that the dignity and solemnity of marriage found their meaning in the Person of God!

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is already a large amount of flexibility permitted in a wedding ceremony. Having attended the wedding of my daughter just eighteen months ago I am aware of how minimalistic the prescribed words are. I don't think that it is very much to expect of both partners that they should use previously specified phrases in order to confirm each person's consent to commitment for life.

I am most certainly not in favour of making possible the absence of either partner from the wedding ceremony! This detracts from the public testimony that is being given. Witnesses need to hear both of them making their vows that clearly indicate the commitment they are making, using words that are not simply whatever they choose, but prescribed words that denote the dignity and solemnity of the covenant which they are making with each other.

More than this, a wedding is never just about the couple! The union in which they are entering is a union which society understands and which has been defined legally. To allow a couple to define the wedding ceremony decouples that marriage both from the law and from the wider society. Marriage is never a private matter!

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, the marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn occasion. As I've observed above, a wedding is a public declaration. Both the state and society have a vested interest in it. Every aspect of the wedding ceremony ought to demonstrate dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Forced marriage is still a problem in our society. I'm very glad that the requirement was introduced centuries ago so that people - usually women - are protected from marrying against their will.

Furthermore, I have already emphasised that marriage is not a private matter; it has enormous public significance. "Open doors" reinforces the public nature of wedding declarations; the requirement should be kept.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a tricky question. Some churches don't own the buildings in which they meet, so allowing for a variety of venues would be of benefit to them. However, I am aware of many inappropriate settings (usually typified in fictitious weddings seen in the movies!). The marriage ceremony must be both dignified and solemn. How can a ceremony in a dungeon, or underwater, or at a Comic Book convention be deemed dignified and solemn?

Simply choosing a venue because the couple wants it is not wise.

Please share your views below:

Dignity and solemnity: how will these 'tests' be applied to a wedding 'in the air'?

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Just as there is a lack of clarity as to how venues will be tested for 'dignity' and 'solemnity', so there is a lack of clarity as to how venues would be tested for 'safety'.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that stringent safeguards ought to be proposed rather than simply 'guidance' from the General Registry Office.

Not only should the venue be safe, but there must be safeguards around the content of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6G-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 15:53:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My wife and I were married in church in a legal way with Church Registrar

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

Am legally married

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Married 32 years ago

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is legal and should be public. there is something about saying your vows in front of witnesses

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

No Change to present situation

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No In person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be public notice

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

In place of wedding

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both. Wedding to take place in church before witnesses

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both parties to be at wedding

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consent in service before witnesses

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registration Officers should be free to officiate in Registry Office and church

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If wedding in a local church the presiding Minister should take service and if someone else presided the Minister should agree. Weddings in churches reflect the beliefs of that church

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any wedding should be legal with vows

Please share your views below:

Churches or Registry offices should be used to marry people. Marriage is not an entertainment but a lifelong commitment

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Legal weddings

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Marriage in line with current UK law. Why change the law?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Ministers of the church holding the service should lead

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be fully qualified

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please define dignity and solemnity

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not to churches and draw up own order of service and have legal wordings

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

what is the fit and proper standard

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

please explain

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again what does this means for Church Ministers who are Registrars

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Happy with 1,2 and 3. Christian churches should not ne made to do Same Sex Marriages that are against scriptural authority

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses and the marriage must be registered to prove it happened

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties must agree to be married and have given notice

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely if people marry they are going to live together otherwise why get married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Anyone conducting a wedding should not be a criminal and should be of sound mind to make proper judgements in accord with law

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be honesty by both parties and no secrets between the two

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only marry when both parties in church or registry office

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding must not be done remotely - open to abuse

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What emergency provisions

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What does this mean. Marriage in a rowing boat?

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It might increase novelty weddings and people who do not take seriously a lifelong commitment before witnesses

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to say

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Weddings should not be seen as a business opportunity

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Should be one law fits all of UK

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

as above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

For people who are members of mu church I do not charge fees



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6Y-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 16:06:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants, having achieved an agreed level of training, should be authorised and included on the public list of officiants.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF62-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 16:25:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am lawfully married

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Question not applicable

No

Please expand on your answer:

You didn't hear the first answer

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No barriers

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None irrelevant question

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We could be country of convenience child brides

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Real identity is important prevents fraud

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Need to think longer about commitment

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

They should not be remote

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Leave it s it is

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They would not be read

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No I don't think so it's for that purpose only avoids fraud

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Too remote

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It goes against a previous question

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The power should be so as a duty of care and prevent fraud

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to recognised

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Depends who you mean by an officiant? A vicar?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Hotels clubs. Anywhere which does not uphold the meaning and sanctity of marriage

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes if it's unlawful

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if suitably trained and certificated

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a standard fee

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It makes a mockery of the ceremony

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Please share your views below:

It's impossible to say

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If people want a religious service they should have it to give it meaning spiritually

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be open to prevent fraud

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It goes against the answer previous

Please share your views below:

No limit

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

More red tape are not premises already licensed by local authority

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hacking. Lost data

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should been co habitation

No

Please expand on your answer:

They are not married

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Three yrs is a safeguard

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There are dangers re fraud

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the difference and who is we

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

3 months is better

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

3 months

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Evidence required

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No they should not

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Should be required to name officiant

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Have no idea irrelevant

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

2 separate fee. Fees are too high anyway

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The cost fees for marriage are prohibitive. Both secular and church.

Marriage is being watered down as a commitment and sacred. Hence anything goes none of the proposals Will change that

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See answer above

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None of this will change anything

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no idea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No views

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Noneno views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Arranged marriage is a danger

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No idea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No idea

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

If you make marriage more expensive than it already is it would be a problem

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6S-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 16:41:06

About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Please select

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

independent wedding celebrants who have completed a full training course should also be permitted to officiate at civil weddings

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

one fully trained officiant be it a registrar or wedding celebrant

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

guidance on conduct but not on content

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An independent should be able to apply not be nominated by an organisation. The General Register Board should have trainers to train independent celebrants in the legal process of marriage and ensure that compliance is being fulfilled

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why is it being proposed that a body nominates an independent officiant?

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is not necessary - as long as it is safe and dignified.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6C-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 16:51:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

See question 3

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My fiancée and I have been trying to get married since March 2020. The requirement to give notice in person was the first hurdle, because our local register office was closed for several months. Because of that we weren't able to give notice until July, by which time the earliest available date to get married at the register office wasn't until November. We only wanted the minimum required ceremony to get legally married. With the additional

lockdown that happened in November, our date had to be moved to December, and now with the Tier 4 restrictions it has been moved to January, although there is of course no guarantee that even this date will be viable. If the UK had marriage laws that were even remotely modern it's very likely that none of this would have happened - we could have given notice online (even the requirement to give notice \*at all\* is honestly antiquated, and many other places don't require you to do anything) and gotten married over the summer before any additional restrictions were put in place. In a worst-case scenario such as the one we're currently in, we could have got married via a video call or other remote option. It is truly embarrassing that the UK's marriage laws are so ancient.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why should it matter whether you live somewhere or not.

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that you should be able to start the process online, but as covid-19 has proven, the requirement to do \*anything\* in person should be abolished.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Zero days. What purpose could any arbitrary amount of time serve?

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, remote interviews should be the default.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

You should be able to give notice (if it's still to be required) from literally anywhere.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why even display them at all? But if they must be shown somewhere, then yes, online should be the default.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes, of course. Why does it matter who performs the wedding as long as they're allowed to?

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Post them online, who cares where they are published physically.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

publish it online.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

marriage should be a completely civil matter. Religious ceremonies should be an optional extra in all cases.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as 'attended' means that online weddings are also allowed.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be no special treatment of anything to do with religion.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

the barrier to becoming an officiant should be sufficiently low that if anyone tries to charge too much, you can simply get someone else to do it.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be no special treatment of religion

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

let people do whatever they want. if it's meaningful to the couple then they should be able to do it.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as this doesn't pose a barrier to becoming re-authorised in the future

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

no limitations at all.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be no legal restrictions at all, but of course religious venues may choose whether or not to conduct any ceremony they wish.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if they don't want to perform the wedding there, then they're free to choose not to do so. the couple should equally be free to choose anyone else they want to officiate. a friend of the couple should be able to quickly and easily become authorised to conduct the wedding if they can't find anyone else willing to officiate (for example, if you wanted to get married on a mountain but existing officials didn't want to hike up there).

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but of course this should merely be guidance, and have no bearing on anything else if it's ignored.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

what purpose would this serve? could the officiant still refuse to perform a wedding there? if so, why bother?

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

any such system should be available for public security review (i.e. open-source).

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

any possible delay in such a situation should be removed.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

covid-19 has clearly proven that this should already have existed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

yes. any place should be allowed. if you want to get married on a pedal boat then why shouldn't you be able to.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

why does it matter? what happens if the company operating the ship has to use a different ship for some reason? it's just an unnecessary barrier.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

along with anyone else who's authorised - it shouldn't be limited to the crew.



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

any officiant should be able to perform the wedding, not just crew.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

yes, it should be allowed.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it should be free, or able to be submitted electronically. in such a situation charging unnecessary extra fees is just cruel.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

free. if they're literally dying why should they be made to pay anything at all?

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as this is reasonable, and not imposed at a punitive rate intended to discourage people from doing this.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in terminal illness cases it should be free

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the process should be able to be done online, therefore the fee should be extremely cheap (under £10).

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

the current law has certainly prevented me from getting married because of covid-19 restrictions.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6Q-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 17:44:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

withheld

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The residential requirement is a safeguard against forced 'marriage'.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See Q4.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

See previous responses; this is to give a period of reflection (or escape!).

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Such interviews should be held face-to-face for the above-quoted safeguarding reasons.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly - depends on reason for 'substitute'.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Possibly, depends on whether or not the solemnity of marriage is impacted.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless the Anglicans want this measure, it may cause undue difficulties for the parties.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Only if the Anglicans so wish.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, a good measure!

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As for Q16.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For dignity and safeguarding.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Emphasizes the impact on society that priests and other ministers of religion have.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More than one such offr lessens the possibility of skulduggery.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous resonse re importance of the role of clergy.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of worship (and speech).

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This is a veritable minefield - consultations should be held to gather data on what would constitute 'non-religious'; eg RAC or AA.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Another minefield! But yes, if they advocate violence or immoral (another minefield!) acts.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such a centrally-held list enhances efficiency and safeguarding.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is a negation of the solemnity of the service.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See response to Q32.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a major aspect of a ceremony which acts as the cement holding society together.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Emphasizes the solemnity of the undertaking.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See Q42. There will be ridiculous 'marriages' otherwise - eg; in diving suits 30m underwater or on swings in a circus.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It may well be much more convenient and adds to the formality.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For reasons of safeguarding and marriage is a publically made commitment.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous comments regarding seriousness and commitment.

Please share your views below:

See above response.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would then not be a public statement of the vows.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity of places of worship should be respected.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure uniformity of approach.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a decision for the officiant.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided 'parent' is deleted. Parents are determined by biology and not contemporary whim!

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly, along as it is for the administrative aspects and not for the marriage ceremony itself.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Point1 - yes, provided appropriate steps are immediately taken on the mistake being noticed.  
Points2,3 - these result in a void 'ceremony', therefore, 'no'.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Either the correct procedure is followed or the 'ceremony' becomes a mere event.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous Q.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Eliminating religious ceremonies? If so, no.

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above points about dignity, however, in cases of emergency 'Yes'.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above re emergencies.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

See above re emergencies.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above re dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only in the case of life-threatening emergencies.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could well be discriminatory.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See Q75.

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Just the general point that marriage cements the building blocks of society.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6M-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 17:54:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in a Church of England parish church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N?A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a retired vicar, I took a C of E wedding in August 2020 under the then current rules. There were 30 present and no congregational singing. However, the rest was normal and it was a dignified yet fun, joyful occasion.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My long experience as a parish Vicar makes me concerned that this might leave it open to marriage fraud, especially relating to immigration.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The essential thing is the in-person interview.

##### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

3 or 7 days seems very rushed for such a huge, life changing decision. I would have thought that a month, at the very least, would be more appropriate.

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I am a great fan of technology and use it all the time. But I think, in view of concerns about coercion and immigration, an in-person interview should be mandatory in this case.

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If they are relevant nationals and attend an in-person interview, that should be fine.

##### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds good in theory, but who decides whether there are genuine and serious risks of harm? If the decision were to be made by the senior registrar, then I think that should be OK.

##### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

##### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that 'unavoidable delay' is very general and potentially open to abuse. I suggest deleting that one.

Please share your views below:



I can't see a need for this.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see no reason for this change.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think banns are outdated and serve no real purpose any more.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think, based on 21 years in C of E ordained ministry, that the current system for documentary evidence is sufficient and meeting each person separately would be excessively cumbersome for all concerned.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As common licences are fairly rare and for specific, unusual circumstances, I think both parties making separate declarations makes sense.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

For all Christian believers a church wedding is essential, as the vows are made primarily in the presence of God himself. But for many others, a church wedding is also very important as the core marriage, not an add-on.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree if unlawful, but I would be concerned about banning an organisation 'contrary to public policy or morality'. That is very undefined. Public morality seems to change all the time in all sorts of directions, and public policy would need a much tighter definition (perhaps restricted to the Law of the land).

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It sounds like anyone could apply! Too open and uncontrolled.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But that needs to be tightly defined for everyone's benefit and clarity, for example as set out in the next question.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that independent officiants are a good idea.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees must be set centrally (as in the Cof E) or it will be open to abuse.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that independent officiants are a good idea.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But please define carefully and clearly what these two important words actually mean.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not in the case of Anglican churches (both Church of England, Church of Wales and other Anglican churches in England or Wales)

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in the case of Anglican churches (as above), and probably other authorised mainstream churches, but not for other organisations.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Except Anglican clergy, who are under church discipline.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that independent officiants are a good idea.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that independent officiants are a good idea.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think oral consent (unless a person is unable to speak, obviously), is essential. I also think that the current wording for both civil and church weddings should be kept. There is more than enough room to tailor things, whilst keeping the essential heart of what marriage is.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is very important and Las Vegas style weddings make a joke of something beautiful and massively significant for any functioning society. IT REALLY SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED ANY FURTHER!

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With some couples who have had a civil wedding, one or both really wanted some Christian content, but weren't allowed.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is important and, occasionally, essential!

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only in a list of suitable indoor environemnts.

Please share your views below:

None of the above are suitable for a safe and dignified wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access as a wedding, by most definitions, has an essential public element.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Undue pressure might be applied on the officiant.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Far too undefined. An agreed list of suitable indoor wedding locations should be in statute.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A if the law sets out what is suitable.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A if the law sets out what is suitable.

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6R-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 18:18:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in 1995. Still married (to the same person, for clarity).

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement assumes that people lead relatively static lives, which is not the case. The validity of their desire to marry (ie that there are no reasons why they should not) can be established by other means.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a far more sensible way of establishing that someone is legally free to marry.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

It is reasonable to require the person to attend, in person, a meeting to verify that it is legally valid for them to marry a week ahead. This allows the registry office to have fair notice of any changes and the couple to "get it dealt with" ahead of the day itself.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The better approach would be to require an in person meeting unless the participants can prove beyond reasonable doubt that there is no coercion or "sham" involved.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This should continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

YEs, they should be displayed online; they should also continue to be displayed on appropriate notice boards in the districts from which both parties hail.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No - the options given cover all the reasonable reasons for an officiant to be changed.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a matter for the Anglican church to respond to.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Ideally, the banns should be published widely, so actually they should be published at all the offices and churches within, say, 40 miles, of the church which will hold the ceremony.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agreed, but they should be provided with free access to the necessary authorities to check the information they are provided with.;

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This is an essential part of the process.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to abandon this option.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An officiant is a necessary part of a marriage process, as it makes it clear that a marriage is more than an agreement two people - it visually and practically marks that a marriage is part of society's structure.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to place this restriction. The current freedom of registration officers to officiate at other weddings allows for significant healthy diversity.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a matter for those churches respectively.



Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will allow for the diversity which exists in the faith sector to be more fully expressed in marriage. However, it is essential that those who are chosen as officiants should be allowed, but not required, to marry those outside their faith or conscience.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A list seems reasonable, but I am not sufficiently informed to comment further.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding service allowed should be agreed to be within the bounds of the law's definition of marriage. Ideally there would be some clear boundaries and text guidelines or options. There should be a clear path for the approval of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is risky in that it starts to allow government to define the bounds of religion. Better to stick to a clear definition of what the bounds of marriage are (as noted above) and require that ceremonies stick within that.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, makes sense.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as, as noted above, these officiants are not required to officiate at weddings beyond their conscience, which is entirely for them to determine.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are plenty of other means provided above.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I note above that "independent" officiants is not an idea I agree with.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Furthermore, "elevating the making of profits" should be defined in clear, limiting terms. This needs much more clarity to make sure that it is enforceable.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is in direct conflict with the previous proposal. The "making of profits" should be much more clearly defined and this should limit the fees chargeable.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is good, but very very weak. Both dignity and solemnity need strong, enforceable, definitions. Officiants should be required to make it clear through words, manner, and tone, that a legal ceremony is in progress.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is helpful; but it must  
(a) enforce dignity and solemnity  
(b) enshrine freedom of religion and conscience  
(c) provide a clear framework and boundaries.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in principle, but where people are officiants because of a post they hold, they should cease to be officiants should they leave that post.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a very loose requirement and impossible to agree with or disagree with. Far more clarity is needed before it is possible to comment on.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a profound legal, personal and societal agreement between two people. Therefore, it should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. It removes the significant importance of the need for public declaration and would substantially downgrade, perhaps totally remove, the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony.

There already exists a great deal of flexibility in the ceremony and further flexibility is not needed. That a couple should be able to personalise a lot of their marriage is reasonable: they are getting married. But a marriage is also a legal and a societal agreement, and so it reasonable to require that those aspects are clearly included, through the use of prescribed wording (with appropriate variants).

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per previous comments:

Marriage is a profound legal, personal and societal agreement between two people. There already exists a great deal of flexibility in the ceremony and further flexibility is not needed. That a couple should be able to personalise a lot of their marriage is reasonable: they are getting married. But a marriage is also a legal and a societal agreement, and so it reasonable to require that those aspects are clearly included, through the use of prescribed wording (with appropriate variants).

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for this provision to be removed. For many couples this freedom has allowed them to be married according to their consciences, and within the bounds of the law.

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The actually wedding ceremony is relatively short, but it is essential that that part should be public because this is an agreement that goes beyond the couple getting married.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony is a celebration, and it should be allowed to be that. But it is also a profoundly serious moment, and that should not be lost. Venues should be allowed only because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. A clear definition of the dignity and solemnity describe above is crucial in determining venues.

A wider number of venues is a good thing, but they should be required to meet the need for dignity and solemnity, as well as celebration.

- Question 48 specifically asks about couples having ceremonies “in the air”, meaning the safe and dignified test doesn’t seem too hard to meet. Would weddings also be allowed in McDonald’s?
- Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Please share your views below:

There are no issues with three of those options, provided, as noted above, that dignity, solemnity are defined and required, as is public access, along with celebration!

"In the Air" is somewhat vague so impossible to comment on.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The question is not entirely clear, but, in principle on grounds of conscience for the venue owners, yes to all three. However, there must be freedom made for the many people who wish to get married but whose faith organisations have no direct access to a venue. Therefore there must be a category of venues which are neither "religious belief venues" nor "non-religious belief venues"

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be allowed to approve a venue only with the clear bounds of dignity, solemnity etc, which need to be much more clearly defined than is proposed.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But much much much more clarity is needed on these requirements to avoid farcical situations.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There should be a process of engagement between the venue (which should be allowed to define which types of wedding they are willing to host) and the registrars office leading to approval (or not). Again, clearly defined requirements should be set.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Although I am sympathetic to the request for Welsh only, it would seem to me to make future administrative work harder for not much gain.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be brought as a separate proposal when it is fully developed.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Points 2 and 3 are of some concern, they needs further clarification.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a cohabitation requirement, but it should be expressed in terms of "weeks in the following year" to allow flexibility in implementation.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but for all those currently is this sitaoun a clear and easy way to become married should be defined.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no specific views on these questions and so haven't answered all of the,

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFT7-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 18:41:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not contributing as part of an organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that only an in-person interview is sufficient to ensure that a forced marriage is detected, so remote interviewing should not be allowed

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree, but only if both parties are available for in-person interviews

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the substitute is a qualified and suitable person

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It would depend on the circumstances

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on where the banns are allowed to be published

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think that they should be published at the church and also on an official website

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree with both of the above. If someone wishes to marry in an Anglican church then this is the least that should be expected of them

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I think that this is a good idea, as it helps to prevent marriage under duress

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that a separate civil ceremony is necessary for those marrying in an Anglican church

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think this is necessary for a wedding in an Anglican church

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Couples who belong to other denominations may wish to marry in their own church and so would need a registration officer present. This was the case for my own wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that does not hold to a stated belief system

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I cannot agree to this because public policy is an open-ended phrase and could depend on political beliefs., rather than ethical or moral considerations

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This is the case in certain religious denominations but their ministers undergo a vigorous selection and training procedure. I think that all officiant should be trained, and not just allowed to officiate by virtue of their office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on the procedures used by the organisations to select the officiants

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should be a national standard published list of charges

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on which organisations are allowed to provide officiants. There be provision of the National Registry overruling an organisation if it does not remove an officiant who is not performing in a proper manner

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I wish you would put these questions in a sensible order and save me needlessly writing such as in Qu. 37!

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The parties need to both be present at the ceremony and to express their consent verbally, unless physical disability prevents this. I think there should be some recognised statement of consent. Allowing any form of stated consent risks undermining the dignity and seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing a couple to choose any form and ceremony again risks the undermining of the seriousness and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that this should still be allowed for those who wish it, although the religious ceremony would not have any legal standing.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement emphasise the public nature of the marriage and mitigates against a forced marriage which a closed, private ceremony would not. Removing this requirement encourages the view that marriage is a private ceremony with no public significance

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the location allows a dignified ceremony that emphasises the seriousness of the commitment being undertaken outdoors,

Please share your views below:

But only if the venue is appropriate to the dignity of the ceremony

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if the officiant meets the criteria that I have indicated above

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no clear statement of what would constitute a dignified and safe location. This is far too vague

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

An official role should be created to perform this task, with the venues paying an appropriate fee

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses to a marriage for it to be a public declaration

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There would need to be special circumstances for non-cohabiting to be allowed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Cruise ships only

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Your proposals may well increase the numbers of couples getting married if they allow frivolous forms of consent and undignified locations that mitigate against the participants appreciating the seriousness of the commitment that they are making

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFW4-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 18:46:20

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No reason for confidentiality.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a widower: my marriage was religious.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties were worshipping Anglicans

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

A grandson has postponed his wedding until larger gatherings are safer.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think at least one should have some connection with the registration district such as having been a resident or worked or studied in the area.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

a month, with exceptions allowed eg for terminal illness

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews increase the possibility of missing signs of coercion etc

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

and via a system which can be consulted from a home computer or phone, not just in the registrar's office.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

should be extendable or easily renewable in cases of unforeseen circumstances (eg Covid, bankrupt venue, serious illness of participants)

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns have to be read in the parishes of both parties. This would prevent a marriage by banns between parties only one of whom lives in England or Wales

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I assume these rules are obsolete

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The purpose of banns is to ensure that people who know the couple are aware , so that they can know if there are any impediments. If the couple live in different parishes, banns need to be read in both.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England is the Established Church, and this gives it the prerogative to be recognised for these legal processes.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, in general agreement, but the definition is not strong enough to eliminate cults which may have beliefs inimical to our society. There have been a variety of such organisations in the USA, and i could envisage that organisations (such as ISIS or Boko Harum) could claim the status of religions. Other examples might be organisations advocating under age sex or FGM, or other processes or customs subjugating women.

Please share your views below:

See previous reply

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Same problems as previous 2 answers. Who is to decide what is an "sincerely held belief about Marriage"??

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes: see previous replies

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The holder of an office is not per se a guarantee of suitability: even in a respected national church safeguards are needed.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

and it should be possible to remove inappropriate nominations from the register.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Government accepts responsibility for ensuring their suitability

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The government or the act or some other suitable independent body must define the term "Fit and Proper" carefully

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

These requirements are necessary but not sufficient

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The belief organisations themselves must only charge reasonable expenses

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is not clear what the bounds of Dignity and Solemnity are. The arrangements should be such as to make it clear that the participants are serious about their vows, that the vows are audible to the whole gathering, and in full view. Stunts such as getting married in a swimming pool, or while engaging in another activity such as parachuting or mountaineering which detract from the participants and guests paying full attention to the essentials of the wedding, should not be encouraged, as being neither dignified nor solemn. Expecting a trained owl to bring the rings can cause chaos if the owl fails to perform.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but there should be a back-stop in case the organisation neglects this responsibility

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Does the GRO have resources and staff and skills to carry out these duties??

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to the considerations below, and an age range, eg over 25 and under 65

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A Wedding is an event which is not only important to the participants, but also to society in general. It should therefore be seen to be done publicly. Even if legal documents are signed before or after the ceremony, the content of them should be made public by the participants in and during the ceremony, both verbally, ( I will, I take, I do ) and if appropriate by clearly seen acts (giving or exchanging rings or other symbols) or gestures (a kiss or embrace) , and this should be done in a place to which the general public has access for the duration of the ceremony.

### Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Subject to approval by the officiant

### Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clearly the subsequent religious service is legally irrelevant to the couple's legal status, but may be otherwise important to the couple (eg baptism of existing offspring), so section 46 is unnecessary

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Question 42

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not all locations provide dignity and solemnity, nor do they allow the public witnessing of the event

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors, in a place accessible to the public could be OK. I don't think a small boat (punt?) would be suitable. Neither of the other suggestions allow public access

### Consultation Question 49:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a non-religious ceremony is requested in a religious venue, it should only be at the discretion of the religious body: likewise if a religious wedding is requested to be held in a non religious venue, the religious authority should approve the venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses must be included. Compare the complications of getting a Lasting Power of Attorney signed, which is essentially in both cases to avoid legal uncertainty and possible deceit or inappropriate pressure

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No mention of the necessity for 2 witnesses

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDB-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 21:18:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that marriage is not to be rushed into on a whim. Allowing a certain amount of time to elapse at the various stages of planning a wedding gives the couple time to reflect on their plans and gain a deeper understanding of the seriousness of what they are doing.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

There should be more time allowed for reflection and reconsideration of the plan to wed.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

When and how will you judge if there are concerns about sham or forced marriages planned, or whether the person/persons have capacity? Without in-person interviews it will be very difficult to read a persons body language which accounts for a large part of communication.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think both these ideas are excellent. A member of the clergy who is expected to carry out the wedding ceremony should be entitled to check documentary evidence and have the opportunity to speak with each of the couple separately in order to establish that each is going into the marriage willingly and having an understanding of the seriousness of the vows they will make to each other.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings conducted as religious ceremonies should be preceded by church preliminaries, not civil.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

You need to explain what it means to 'promote purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality'. What is your standard of morality?



Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please define what is meant by 'fit and proper' persons.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a level playing field with officiants from religious and non-religious organisations.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that officiants should behave responsibly by upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage, but I also believe that they should be held responsible to ensure that the tone and content of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. Making the ceremony a casual and flippant affair are not the standards to be aspired to.

The words 'dignity' and 'solemnity' need to be very clearly defined in order for the officiants to fully understand their responsibilities.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the General Register Office should invite others to contribute to writing the guidance for officiants e.g. representatives from religious organisations.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To allow people to get married simply by signing the marriage schedule without needing to be present at the ceremony grossly undermines the seriousness and solemnity of the marriage ceremony and the commitment they are making to each other. Public declarations are foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. There is plenty of flexibility in the wording of the wedding ceremony so that couples can make it 'their own', so keeping specific phrases to show that the couple freely consent to making a lifetime commitment to one another will add to the 'feel good factor' of the ceremony, not detract from it. If they are allowed to completely personalise the ceremony then it becomes too private and completely detached from becoming a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. Society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. A wholly self-defined marriage ceremony divides marriage from the law and wider society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn occasion and therefore should be treated as such. Themed ceremonies such as Alice in Wonderland or Harry Potter are inappropriate and simply trivialise the ceremony. How can such trivialisation convey to the couple or society that the wedding vows convey a deep and long term commitment to one another?

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

That they are making their wedding vows in the sight of God.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We still have a problem in our society of forced marriage. 'Open doors' helps to protect vulnerable women against this. Open doors also makes the statement that wedding declarations are of a public nature and significance, not a private matter.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple have religious beliefs then they should marry in a venue appropriate to their convictions. If a couple have no religious beliefs then they should not be allowed to make a mockery of using a religious venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But you need to define what you mean by 'safe' and 'dignified'. This has to be very specific and transparent with stringent safeguards in place. How will venues be tested for dignity and safety?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because wedding vows are a public declaration, it is important that the schedule is signed in front of witnesses and is registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is a marriage for, if not to bring together two people who want to cohabit? This clause leaves the system wide open to abuse, for convenience marriages used for a variety of reasons. This is not taking marriage as a serious and solemn commitment.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

'Safe and dignified'?

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be a named person because they are responsible for a number of aspects of the wedding ceremony, and must therefore be held accountable.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if they are named and held accountable to fulfil their responsibilities.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6H-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 21:32:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should dress in a sober manner and not in any sort of fancy dress. Marriage is a serious business (as well as joyous) and should not be undermined in any way.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In line with the seriousness and dignity of what marriage is - a lifelong covenant.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent monitoring, please; no one should be allowed to mark their own homework.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A clear unambiguous verbal (unless a participant is mute) statement of consent is needed with a minimum set form of words that is widely recognisable from previous weddings - a common currency of words, if you like. This should add to the solemnity of the occasion, and remind the couple and witnesses that this is not solely a private matter but one of public import (which is why the state and the law are involved) because a stable society is built on stable marriages.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should have due solemnity because of the seriousness of the commitment that is about to be undertaken. There should not be an 'anything goes' policy because a frivolous wedding denotes a frivolous view of marriage: lightly-undertaken, lightly broken. A marriage is not a private matter for the couple; everyone has a stake in a faithful, enduring marriage because such marriages provide emotional and material security for any children that result, and such children grow up to be responsible adults who contribute to society. Children from failed marriages and other arrangements are far more likely to be a burden on society through mental health, poor educational attainment, drug abuse, crime and poverty. Social research has shown this over and over again.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what the question is aiming to achieve, so it's hard to answer.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what the question is aiming to achieve, so it's hard to answer.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a public matter as explained above, in which everyone has a stake.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The more individuality in the ceremony, the more the sense that couples are entering into a self-defined marriage, rather than the solemn undertaking of a lifelong covenant which should be common to all marriages. Wacky locations undermine the seriousness of what is being entered in to.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors in a garden of a hotel would be fine, but all the other settings above are highly inappropriate, the last one, a private home (unless one participant is seriously ill and unable to be moved) because of the public nature of marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a marriage, civil or religious, and all marriages are of public interest.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, within clearly defined guidelines to exclude frivolous and inappropriate locations.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Shouldn't the date and the parents details be added to the certificate at the ceremony? Surely it is not good practice with any legal document to allow for alterations/additions after it has been signed and witnessed?

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are vital for the public standing of marriage (or we are back to clandestine marriages, abolished in the 18th century), and a valid (signed) certificate is there to prevent irregularities or marriages of convenience.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this question is aiming at.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this question is aiming at.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this question is aiming at.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too open to abuse.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should not be subject to strange whims; marriage is too important for that.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings in English law to take place in England or Wales - that's not too much to ask. is it?

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:



Anyone who is serious about marriage surely cannot be put off so easily? I don't think the proposals will make one iota of difference to the serious minded couple.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFT8-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-21 23:40:20

### About you

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[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I wanted to demonstrate publicly my commitment to the man I was about to marry. I felt it was an important statement to make. I also wanted to do this officially and to affectively declare my love in a setting that was solemn and safe. I was also aware that my words required thought and care, and decided that a church would tick all the boxes.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A safeguard to ensure that the individual is not a bigamist, any safeguard to protect people is helpful. It also allows a degree of reflecting on the part of both parties.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A period of time for reflection is a sensible way of proceeding...to allow people to understand the commitment they are giving!

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that this is a poor idea, looking a person in the eye is very telling! After reading about the amount of forced marriages and heartache that has occurred, we must protect the vulnerable always!

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Why would anyone want to open up a can of worms, if people want to marry, they should understand the rules and live by them. A captain on a ship is able to marry a couple, why would we require to introduce other elements into the pot!

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why would you see that a private wedding between two people has to be displayed on line? It is their lives, so it goes against their privacy!

### Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be a recognised individual who is provided to officiate at weddings, not an off the street individual, who is standing in. It should be a significant time that is solemn and meaningful to give the time and couple dignity!

### Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The way this is portrayed, makes the ceremony an ad hoc affair, and is not helpful. Surely we live in a society where a wedding should be taken seriously, and those officiating should be trained?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As this will be a Parish church it will be a local communities that will be interested, so the answer must be yes!

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think that in some cases documentary evidence may be vital, and meeting with individuals may again have merit!

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This must be up to the priest!

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

It is good for people to reflect on the commitment they are making, which is often easier in a place that is separate from the community. A church setting has been hundreds of years past, a place of sanctity and rest, this is a helpful analogy when considering the stress of life generally and marriage. The combination of all of this makes it an ideal place for a wedding!

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Having a public figure as well as a Church officiant seems a good balance, to show the two sides of marriage in society.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No not at all, many dubious organisations would have people swearing allegiance to all sorts of things, at the same time as officiating at the wedding. People must be supported and helped in making a pledge to one another, and an official worded document would be helpful to ensure vulnerable folk are protected.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If required people should be 'fit and proper' Although....it can still leave people indoctrinated or vulnerable! Allow them to officiate, it is wrong thinking and open to abuse in so many ways.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is difficult question, for although they are trained etc . It is so easy to indoctrinate and for someone to be coerced into a marriage by hefty individuals, that it cannot just rest on training! We have a moral duty to protect people and that is why an outsider can see more and view a situation better.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely it should be up to government to have a 'watching brief' over all of this?

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not a case of just ticking boxes, we are referring to people of all types, that may be hard of hearing old or being pushed into a wedding! Care needs to be taken in all areas! It cannot be right to have such a cavalier way about a ceremony and to allow it to be abused or radicalised in any way people want! Which can happen from any organisation being allowed to be used in this way.

This is a dreadful example to give society on how little credence and care we give to marriage. It is necessary in a variety of ways to help people to understand commitment, for the well being of society, emotionally and for the benefit for their children and the future.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No I disagree, this is not good. It is a solemn occasion and it must be kept that way. It is not right to allow any wording to be applied. Marriage is a commitment and the ceremony must be kept special and not allowed to be politicalised by any group whoever they are. The place and the wording must

be kept in a correct and significant way!

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again indoctrination comes in many forms and in many ways, so this must be carefully thought through and watched!

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No this is not good, as weddings must be delivered in dignity, and as a solemn occasion but also as a public display.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a dreadful idea, as on the spur of the moment a wedding could take place in a most inappropriate place! It needs to be shown as a special occasion not a gimmick, as it could become by being used by an advertising agent.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, wedding venues should be selected carefully and be designated.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safe and dignified in some people's ideas could be anywhere and anything, so how can we be sure of what decisions they would make. We must ensure that our society is built on correct values that at least exhibit a commitment to others that is planned to last. It is not built up on drama and an approach marriage as a throw away!

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

My view is that as in all these questions you seem to be happy to pass the responsibility quickly on to another party. Surely we should realise that as a society we require some things to be constant. Marriage and the way we handle the ceremony, who officiates and the location, should be defined as special and required to be kept that way. We are required to look after the environment and we do so by making sure we select and care about our refuse and recycle. We care, because this is looking after the health of our world! Let us look after the health in our society by caring about the way we take care of relationships and care about every aspect of marriage and the way it can have a positive or negative affect on society!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Strange questions, is this a business proposition?

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Another odd question, that makes me wonder who invented all of this and what is behind all of the questions? We must ensure people are knowledgeable about all that they are undertaking!

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a person is housebound surely they will be on a limited income, so another hardship seems unfair!

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

People get married quite easily at the present time, without us requiring any changes in the law. If marriage was given a better status by all side of society in benefits not only financially, but also in bringing up offspring. This would help people understand the real value of marriage.

The structure of marriage is one that allows a variety of different thoughts and feelings to support children in life, in a very balanced way! It has a creativity in it, allowing for the benefit of ideas and emotions to be shared, that can create a harmony peace and emotional balance that can supports society in so many ways.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cost is something we all cater for when working out expenses. If the cost is too high it will not benefit either party!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Once something is not given proper status, it becomes less important and people will not desire to have it. If on the other hand it is dignified and given status and looks special then people want it. As a law maker you can support society and help it to become a good society and one that values its people! If you just make laws for convenience and to sooth the ones in society who are after change, you do the people a disservice. We require good and healthy laws made by people who value not only the world we are in, but people and the future for those coming after us who will certainly judge all of us. All of which requires a lot of good thought and possibly a tinge of faith in humanity, life and possibly in much more!

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am writing in regard to my concern, that our marriage laws are being challenged and changed to the detriment of not only the parties concerned, but the fabric of society. This will always impact on local people everywhere.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTN-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 00:04:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Legally binding marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No barriers at all preventing a legally binding marriage

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not a problem

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Fully agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Fully agree

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No need to change

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be much broader, as officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure the content and tone of the legal proceedings upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

The definition of 'Dignity and solemnity' needs to be spelled out in detail, as this could be determined subjectively in a variety of ways.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Removing prescribed words and just requiring an expression of consent is totally inadequate. Someone could sign the statement and not actually be at the wedding!

Couples being able to say anything they like or nothing removes the solemnity and commitment of marriage. There is no need to depart from the public declarations foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

The risks of undermining the solemnity of marriage and minimising the serious commitment of marriage will have a very negative effect on society. The current prescribed wording can be added to by couples in all kinds of ways so it is not necessary to change as the wedding service is already very flexible. This is change for the sake of change. If it is not broken, don't try to fix it!

It is not much to ask that some specific words are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into. Such words help couples express the commitment they wish to make to each other.

The desire to completely personalise the wording in a marriage service comes from a wrong view of marriage that is a union which is understood by society and has to be legally defined. Society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. It would be wrong to decouple marriage from the law. This would be disastrous for society, please do not consider this.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A particular ceremony should not be allowed simply because the couple decide at that point in time to follow a certain format. This is a very significant event and so the marriage ceremony should be conducted as present with serious thought and solemnity.

Just being able to choose whatever you like in a ceremony has no bounds and shows a lack of understanding and view of what marriage is. All society has an interest in the public declaration of marriage and this should be common to all marriage ceremonies.

Themed weddings that are simply about being fun and outlandish are probably those where the couples have not truly reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Our country is better than this, please don't go down this regretful route.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations and was introduced as a protection against forced marriages that unfortunately is still a problem in our society.

Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. Who determines what is dignified and safe? This will cause endless problems. Be careful not to legitimise inappropriate settings.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for 'dignity' and 'safety'. The terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6J-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 07:45:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

My contribution is personal and I am sharing my private views. If I chose to engage in a public way I would approach that differently. If you are unable to respect my privacy choice then please advise me before any breach.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not married

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No barriers

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is about stability, both in terms of relationship and connection to society. I see a disadvantage in removing a residency qualification in terms of detaching couples from the community.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period is preferable to underline the lifelong commitment being entered into and to avoid risk of a rushed affair.

Less momentous choices are available to any couples, including cohabitation. This helps mark the distinctiveness of marriage.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. There should be no exception to face-to-face interviews. The alternative would be far too easy to abuse

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should continue to be possible for one of the party.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only as an addition to the conventional posting. Not everyone consults online notices

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this is important

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

In addition to preliminaries required by religious denominations

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious ceremonies should be the domain of ordained ministers or deacons only.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And the same recognition should be given to ministers of other religious denominations.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is an important caveat to my 'yes' answer: it is not the jurisdiction of the law society to 'propose' or in any other way to determine the officiant in other religions (apart from the state church perhaps).

For non religious belief followers, they have the ability to use a civil wedding registrar. There should be no enabling of such organisations to nominate an officiant any more than any other type of non religious group, eg a rugby club, a nature group

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It sounds like a religion. If not than the civil ceremony option is available to ensure the marriage conforms to the dignity and status expected.

Please share your views below:

It is for non religious belief organisations to justify why they should have any different entitlement to a civil marriage which is available to any other non religious citizen.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The number threshold for appointing officiants should be much higher, of the order of a minimum of 10,000 adherents when measured nationally.

A number as low as 20, which the law society proposes, would be an invitation to form sects.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Most definitely not. This would be gross interference and trespass into areas of conscience which is akin to totalitarianism.

Public policy and morality are subjective and very often partisan and the product of active lobbying by vested interests.

Such a proposal would unleash a virus of political correctness and be extremely corrosive to the interests of a harmonious society. It would risk causing division and persecution particularly of those who adhere to the prevailing and long-tested Judaeo-Christian precepts.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The religious organisations should be left to administer their own officiants without state interference or bureaucracy.

Non religious organisations should be subject to the same arrangements as civil registrars.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they fulfil the same criteria and provide the same functions as a civil registrar

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but caveated that 'fit and proper' is determined by the religious organisation

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be decided by religious organisations for religious ministers. The above criteria for civil registrars are agreed except the minimum age should be 25 to ensure candidates had undertaken higher level studies and gained life experience to reinforce the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is for religions to determine.

People can make their own choices about the motivation of religious officiants.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above, this is for religious organisations to administer.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only in the case of non religious officiants.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On the case of religious officiants only: The GRO has no higher jurisdiction than a religious organisation and should not be able to intervene.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only in the case of civil/non religious officiants should there be a time limit and review to ensure their practice is being overseen by a higher authority to ensure standards of dignity and solemnity are being maintained.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTA-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 08:28:45

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be helpful to have the terms 'dignity' and 'solemnity' defined. It should also require the officiant to make sure the actual content and tone of the ceremony upholds the 'dignity' and 'solemnity' spoken of.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to suggest it would be possible for a person to get married without being physically present at the wedding ceremony. I believe this risks undermining the dignity and solemnity of the wedding ceremony as well as devaluing the serious nature of the promises and commitments being made. It seems to me there is a huge amount of freedom already within the wedding ceremony in that the legally binding words are minimal and couples can shape their vows in any number of ways.

It is important for couples to declare their intention to enter the lifetime commitment that marriage is.

A wedding is not just about the preference of the individuals involved, but it is a union which is understood by society and which has been legally defined - so both the general public and the law have an interest in there being a public declaration. A self-defined marriage completely undermines and devalues the 'dignity' or 'solemnity' of what marriage actually is - good for society and should be kept and celebrated as such.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a party (although admittedly it is something to celebrate), it is a public declaration in which both society and the state have an interest. The promises made in marriage are serious and should not be taken flippantly or lightly and so settings or themes of weddings should reflect the dignity and solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public matter and not a private one. As such the open doors requirement conveys this public nature of wedding declarations. There is also an issue of forced marriage in our society. An open doors requirement provides some limited protection from any who would be forced to marry against their will.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Venues need to be places that are both dignified and safe - in keeping with the solemn nature of marriage. Again, marriage is not a private matter, but a public matter, so it's not about what the individual couple want, but what is appropriate for such a hugely significant ceremony.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The venue should meet a rigorous test for upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a robust test for both 'dignity' and 'solemnity' to be upheld, as well as safety. Clearly defined and robust safeguards should be in place and followed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTB-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 09:46:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Personal response

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses of the marriage.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A terminal illness is a special case where time is not always available to fulfill all of the requirements.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Consultation Question 89:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFT6-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:03:02

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be in person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The parties should only be able to request a substitute officiant in the event of the death, illness

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, to open to manipulation

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, important that both of the couple should be required to attend and make their declarations that there is no impediment to their marriage

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person.

One of the Law Commission's goals is that "the ceremony that is meaningful to the couple should be recognised by law". This can happen at the moment in churches that do not have an authorised person, by having a civil registrar to register the marriage. If this is not possible, many couples who attend such churches are likely to require a civil ceremony separate to their church wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a religious ceremony. Non religious belief organisations should not therefore be given the authority / responsibility for nominating officiants at weddings

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The test of this should focus on objective criteria. These might include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants currently conduct weddings that are not legally binding. These have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en.<sup>1</sup> Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs.

Such ceremonies could be legally binding if independent officiants were allowed, undermining the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government.

The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective. It will not prevent couples finding an officiant to agree to even the most outlandish wishes.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole. Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is serious concern that it is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed? The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFT3-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:06:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are public events and thus people should marry in the area they live.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be in person, with proof of identification

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Should also be published in the parishes where the groom and bride live.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, need to ensure that groom and bride are who they say they are and want to be married.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should. Marriage is a legal contract which you should only be allowed to enter into if you are free to do so. A public declaration shows the importance of this.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently registration offices can also register weddings at a religious ceremony, where they oversee the signing of the register and ensure that the prescribed words are said. Many churches have civil registrars to officiate a weddings, but this proposal will prevent them doing so. Thus will potentially require people of faith to have both a civil ceremony and religious ceremony. The increased costs of two ceremonies may put couples off from getting married.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

“Contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

The test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Currently there is no financial incentive to officiate a wedding. Opening up a market for independent officiants makes wedding vows a commercial concern. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries. This also risks defeating the goal of reducing costs of wedding venues, which was one of the stated aims the Government gave the Law Commission in 2018.<sup>2</sup>

A recent study found that most independent celebrants would give couples very little restriction in what they could include in their ceremony – even where the content “clashed with their personal religion, beliefs or values”. This sets the bar extremely low for the seriousness of the wedding, and it is unclear what safeguards or training would be in place.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a standard set charge for officiating at weddings, which cover the costs of the official. Otherwise there is a risk that independent officiants will be motivated by profit, further increasing the cost of weddings, potentially putting couples off weddings.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance, does not have to be followed, there should be legal requirements, otherwise there is the risk of undermining the importance of marriage.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be a government responsibility.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government.

Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind.

The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually.

The prescribed words are only a small part of the entire wedding ceremony. The rules are already extremely flexible about what happens in the rest of the ceremony. It is hard to imagine a genuine wedding in which the prescribed words could not be included at some stage.

Allowing wholly personalised wedding ceremonies without any legally-required words would send the message that marriage is an entirely private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective. It will not prevent couples finding an officiant to agree to even the most outlandish wishes.

The possibility of fully-tailored wedding ceremonies will encourage commercialisation. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries.

If people can entirely customise their own weddings, they might blend together different elements from faith ceremonies inappropriately, effectively making a parody of those ceremonies. This could be highly offensive to people of those faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a clear choice of either having a religious or civil ceremony. By allowing religious ceremonies to have religious elements, it devalues religious ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole.

The opposite is also important; weddings which are not publicly accessible make a statement that the marriage is private and of interest only to the couple. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The danger is that removing the restrictions opens the door to inappropriate venues being used. It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used.

How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed?

The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings "in the air", suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The danger is that removing the restrictions opens the door to inappropriate venues being used. It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used.

How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed?

The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings "in the air", suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDUP-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:08:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

The registered building's Authorised Person for marriages

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The changes to maximum numbers and rules have been difficult to ensure the latest requirements are followed and a great frustration; it has been particularly harsh to have no options to include larger numbers in a large venue through obeying social distancing, masks, without guests singing etc., and follow all Government requirements. The couples I have dealt with were first and foremost determined to enter into their marriage contract as planned, even if the service had to be videoed for non-attendees.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given the centralised Government information on citizens with a right to remain in the UK, there should be no specific need to make the couple be resident in the district for 7 days.

However, there should still be the option for the minister / priest / leader to state that their particular tradition / religion does expect the couple to be part of that locality / parish - if the couple want to be married under that tradition / religion by a minister / priest / leader.

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on the timescales for each part (the minimum notice period and the minimum time between the interview(s) and a marriage ceremony). I know getting my face-to-face interview with the both people together, before I agree to act as authorised officiant can be difficult to fit in to all diaries. Many couples will be extremely busy in the lead up to a wedding and if Law Commission starts an online, e.g. , 3-month minimum notice period, arranging the interview(s) might be too close to the planned wedding date due to lack of time to complete identity, immigration and background checks to prevent bogus marriages - or wreck plans if the Superintendent Registrar prevents the marriage proceeding on their booked date simply due to full diaries on their side.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I would recommend 1 month to allow the Superintendent Registrar sufficient time to complete identity and all other background checks etc. based on new evidence gleaned from an in-person interview or interviews.

Consideration should also be given to the benefit of having both people attend at the same time to both save Registrar's time and provide intuitive assessment of the validity of their intent.

Since we are confirming a long-term marriage with the expectation of stability, it is not unreasonable to expect 1 month to elapse, to ensure this is willingly entered into, fully considered by both and not rushed or coerced.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe a telephone interview is sufficient to satisfy a Registrar that the person really is the person applying to marry, and that there is no force or coercion being applied. Whilst video interview may help with assessment of the validity, this should not exclude people who do not have access to video technology.

Much safer to stay with an in-person interview.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, giving notice should be an option online or by telephone if there is a good reason why they are not in the UK, but I would urge in-person interviews to be conducted (even with a UK-approved Registrar in a Commonwealth country) with sufficient time to validate prior to the wedding.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unclear as to exactly where these would be displayed online. If it is just a Government website, it may never be read by those who have a genuine reason to challenge one of the people giving notice.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is the current practice and I see no reason to change this, but I would be content if there were reasons to shorten this to 6 months.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I expect some Government validation, registration and log of the officiant would be made - if there was any previous evidence of that person being involved in any bogus marriage challenge, this person could be prevented from continuing in that role.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the Law Commission believe that the officiant performing the marriage should be listed to safeguard everyone involved, then allowing a last-minute switch would undermine this. Better to ask for a named backup officiant at the time of interview.

Please share your views below:

If the Law Commission believe that any officiant performing the marriage should be approved and known, to safeguard everyone involved, then allowing an unexpected switch to A N Other would undermine this. It is better to ask for a named backup officiant at the time of interview(s).

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Banns are a local announcement and should relate to 1 of the 2 people marrying who have a local connection with the area / parish publishing the Banns. Primarily this should be for the Anglican Church to decide on the best way to validate and support the couple's notification of marriage.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Insufficient detail to assess the impact and/or reasoning behind this proposal.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns are a local announcement and should relate to 1 of the 2 people marrying who have a local connection with the parish publishing the Banns. Banns should be published in the parish of the Groom, the Bride and the wedding ceremony church (if not in either the Bride's or Groom's parish).

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. I believe the validation of identity, immigration, background checks etc. should be done by a Superintendent Registrar with full access to Government records. However any officiant or clergy should be able to raise concerns with the local Register Office about a proposed marriage.
2. Yes, definitely. I as an Authorised Person (local registrar) for a building ALWAYS meet the couple before I agree to sign the legal paperwork during the service.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I will assume when you say required to "attend", you mean an interview with the Anglican clergy (or similar priest) prior to the wedding.

I see no reason to make the declaration to the Anglican clergy (or Superintendent Registrar), since

- a) the legal background checks would attempt to discover this
- b) the declaration will be made during the service
- c) if one party is trying to hide an impediment they are not going to declare it freely.

Since the legal checks will have been made (as far as possible), the statement in the service is both a final declaration to their partner of their freedom to

enter into the marriage and a significant verbal promise witnessed by officiant and the attendees - with the touching moment of asking anyone who has a reason to challenge this, to speak out now.

#### Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I know of some couples who have gone through marriage ceremony at the Register Office because their selected location could not be used for marriages but it is genuinely detracting from "the big day" if it is split and their "celebration" event with all their friends and family is a little while later. They feel that they are not properly committed / publicly recognised as married if they only have had the legal part. This similarly applies equally to other Christian denominations who will want to hold a single marriage service with a Registrar / Authorised Person for the building present to validate the legal promises and complete required paper record keeping.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As an Authorised Person for our building, it works well because I can bring a personal touch to the wedding ceremony planning, as I can explain what the couple has to do for a legal marriage. Many people do select the traditional style wedding, with emphasis on a single big event. The ability to provide a legal document is certainly a meaningful part of the day. Knowing all the background checks have been done already removes concerns - we are seeking to promote good and stable marriages by offering support throughout.

#### Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings based on religious ceremonies should continue to have an Authorised Person for the building validating the legal contract, that should be possible in a similar way for civil weddings, again with the constraint it has to be in a building registered for weddings.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Typically a wedding has a minister / priest / leader who conducts the ceremony, it is then good to have a registrar who undertakes the legal process. I am aware that Anglican ministers may fulfil both roles. No reason to change the current practice. No need for more than 1 registration officer if they are required to ensure a legal ceremony.

#### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but there should be registration of their names by the Superintendent Registrar and detailing the buildings they may use, with confirmation that sufficient training has been undertaken to issue legal documents,

#### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Point 2 could be rather unconstrained, there should be controls such that "pop-up" organisations are not suddenly generated for a particular wedding, with no tradition of bringing marriage teachings and supporting the couple.

#### Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Please share your views below:

Generally assessing an organisation's claim to be a non-religious belief organisation is clear. A list of non-compliant organisations may include philosophical societies, scientific or academic institutions that have no single belief system held by their members and no inherent purpose to provide marriage services or support to members.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

20 members seems a very low threshold (noting that you require their governing body to authorise officiants).  
Better to add a 5-10 year minimum existence to demonstrate the longevity of their beliefs, especially in relation to life-long marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Today, some religious organisations elect to perform same-sex marriages, others only heterosexual marriages - I would not want an organisation to be excluded for not, for example, offering same-sex ceremonies - especially since same-sex couples do have other venues for their marriage.  
At the opening of this consultations was concerns about non-legal marriages taking place and the lack of a legal framework for these. Certainly if an organisation allows or promotes non-legal marriages, polygamy, under-age or forced marriages that organisation appears unfit - noting that such practices may be deliberately hidden from public scrutiny.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. If the officiants have any part of a legal marriage ceremony, they should be registered individually and their credentials validated and some form of competency assessed.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, officiants having any part of a legal marriage ceremony, should be registered individually by Superintendent Registrar , their credentials validated and some form of competency assessed.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current system of officiants linked to the organisation, under whose ceremonies and belief system the service is carried out, is a positive aspect of the new start for the couple. Permitting independent business-driven officiants, from a generic list, who has little or no understanding of the organisation's traditions is an unwise move.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"Fit and Proper" is too open to interpretation. If the officiants have any part of a legal marriage ceremony, they should have their credentials (e.g. criminal record) validated and some form of competency assessed and be sponsored by the organisation they are attached to.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is still too subjective about who and how they are deemed "fit and proper", much better to not allow business-driven commercial officiants, but have them attached to an owing organisation to whom they are accountable and whose ceremony and aims they carry out.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Autonomous independent officiants are not required, however I can envisage a role for a person at a registered building, e.g. a hotel, employing or selecting a member of staff, with training and registration, to undertake the role of officiant.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An officiant should be tied to a single organisation, specifically to 1 or more authorised buildings, of that religious / non-religious / venue organisation.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a legal contract being undertaken and the manner of the ceremony must convey this in accordance with the legal promises being made.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some form of formal assessment should be considered, beyond hoping the person has read the guidance notes. Reinforced with prescribed sentences that are a legal minimum that would stand in court if ever challenged.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Beyond having unannounced OFSTED-like visits to a wedding ceremony, there are few ways of assessing the quality of an individual's work. It should remain with the organisation - this requires officiants be tied to a single organisation - thus removing any notion of autonomous independent officiants. Clearly if paperwork is not submitted correctly and on-time, the Superintendent Registrar would take action.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please clarify exactly how the General Register Office would detect that a person is no longer a "fit and proper" person?

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Autonomous independent officiants are not required. It should remain with the organisation - this requires officiants be tied to a single organisation - thus removing any notion of autonomous independent officiants. Exactly how would the General Register Office detect that a independent officiant s no longer a "fit and proper" person?

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would assist the overall quality of service and its management if there were 5-yearly confirmations that the organisation is still offering weddings and that the nominated individual is still sponsored by the organisation and active.

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Autonomous independent officiants are not required.

Having officiants linked to a single organisation, validation of professional development remains with the organisation.

I doubt if the General Register Office is really going to have the time or mechanism to effectively assess any autonomous independent officiants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes, I agree but clarity needed about the need and role of a trained officiant / authorised person to ensure the expression of consent is legally sufficient, if it is not the 2 stipulated sentences used today.
2. No. In the religious tradition I represent the couple will often write their own vows, whilst retaining the 2 stipulated sentences used today. It is not clear if any given religious (or non-religious) organisation will always adhere to the unchanging wedding ceremony words that were submitted by their HQ, possibly years ago.
3. Whilst the marriage document / certificate can contain the necessary expression of consent to marry the other named person, it can be too easy to sign what is put in front of you and not read the small print. It is unclear what level of understanding and preparation has been achieved by each person prior to the ceremony.
4. Yes

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Without stipulated sentences being enforced or agreed minima, the legality could be challenged later. I have already commented on the appointment, registration and training of officiants needs to be much more rigorous.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree there should be flexibility about the form of weddings in these 3 traditions but should be expanded to include other Christian denominations. Publicly spoken verbal promises of each persons undertaking and commitment to the marriage is an important part in forming stable relationships; there should be an expectation that these are included since marriage is THE foundational social structure.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Broadly yes, but there may be issues with, e.g. weddings at a Register Office, where some Local Government officiants may or may not be comfortable with religious language content. Will Local Government officiants now have the time to spend time with couple understanding and agreeing to include any religious language to include in their civil ceremony? More likely to generate tension, when a choice religious ceremonies are offered elsewhere.

Please share your views below:

Many religious people will take their vows as serious life-long intentions of commitment, but would want to acknowledge some for of divine support / assistance in their desire to keep their promises and may select promises that include such desire or invitation. More likely to generate tension, when a choice religious ceremonies are offered elsewhere.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This a further safeguard against secretive, forced or bogus weddings.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should always be tied to a registered building, with a registered organisation sponsoring the officiant / authorised person. Quality standards for a legal marriage are almost impossible to enforce if anywhere may be selected.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors only if part of a registered building, with a registered organisation sponsoring the officiant / authorised person.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whether civil or religious they should both be under the same standards and safeguards.

Weddings should always be tied to a registered building, with a registered organisation sponsoring the officiant / authorised person. Quality standards for a legal marriage are almost impossible to enforce if anywhere may be selected.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The key here is the venue. The organisation controlling the venue (i.e. a building) should be able to unilaterally decided what type of ceremony they will permit / what type of ceremony their officiants / authorised person(s) they sponsor can conduct.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have already expressed my concerns over the idea of autonomous independent officiants who have no sponsoring organisation to ensure they continue to be trained and are fit persons to conduct ceremonies. They would no little or no accountability for their decisions, actions and probably few records of the reasoning behind location choices and the details of the ceremony performed. Continue to use registered buildings.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safe and Dignified are too subjective, even with guidelines. Having a registered building removes these risks. The registered building will already be validated as Safe and Dignified and have an approved ceremony to use provided by the religious/non-religious organisation, with the ceremony conducted by a officiant / authorised person for that building, who is also registered to Superintendent Registrar.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should not be needed. Remain with weddings being conducted in registered buildings.



Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Optional? So it then would not matter if the location had not been approved by any Government body before being used? This is a concern, better to have pre-registered buildings and registered officiants / authorised persons who are sponsored by an appropriate organisation to regulate ceremonies in accordance with the organisation's submitted ceremony and the legal clauses.

Please share your views below:

it would have to be the Local Government Registrar's Office that reviews these; if it is only a few venues that regularly host weddings - you could call the registered buildings. If it is only optional then weddings may be held anywhere unless officiants are linked to that venue. If it is deemed essential to approve locations ahead of a wedding, clearly it would be a burden on the Local Authority if many weddings are conducted in random places with an expectation that a member of Local Authority staff has to visit and assess its suitability.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Each person marrying should be able to name their mother and father, adding occupations if they chose.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important for the couple to know they are legally married at the time of the wedding ceremony.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Use of witnesses should be retained and would be important if the legality of the ceremony was ever challenged by either party.  
If the legal contract of the marriage is the signing of the marriage document / schedule (beyond any verbal statements during ceremony) the document cannot be left unsigned.  
Currently officiants are required to provide quarterly returns for each building, this ensures every marriage is registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This clause should add a non-qualifying ceremony if it was not performed in accordance with the submitted ceremony of the relevant organisation including the use of stipulated legal sentences.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

2. should state "a validated ceremony".

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to be no change to current arrangements.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to be no change to current arrangements.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

providing it is only under Emergency Provisions and not offered to anyone claiming a risk of death.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

By permitting weddings beyond registered buildings under registered organisations, this loses control of the quality controls, public access and legal standards of conduct and accountability.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

By permitting weddings beyond registered buildings under registered organisations, this loses control of the quality controls, public access and legal standards of conduct and accountability.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

By permitting weddings beyond registered buildings under registered organisations, this loses control of the quality controls, public access and legal standards of conduct and accountability. Couples can opt for a party on any vessel at any location of their choice at a later (or earlier) date, but the legal wedding ceremony should be constrained and be potentially subjected to being independently audited by UK authorities.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is opening marriages to being performed in an illegal way. Without the couple registering exactly which organisation is providing the approved ceremony and their sponsored officiant / authorised person at a registered building, the marriage may not be registered afterwards or legal commitments may have been used.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A land-based Officiant / Authorised Person can be required to submit marriage documents on a timely basis following the wedding, it may well not be possible for ship's crew. There would be no quarterly returns from such ship's company to confirm all conducted weddings had been registered.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have already raised concerns over the idea of independent autonomous officiants who are not part of any sponsoring organisation, have no accountability for their decisions, operations and training. This will inevitably lead to confusion over whether a wedding did take place, its use of an approved ceremony and legality of any verbal statements at the time.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have already raised concerns over the idea of "flying officiants" (or sailing officiants?) who are not part of any sponsoring organisation, have no accountability for their decisions, operations and training. This will inevitably lead to confusion over whether a wedding did take place, its use of an approved ceremony and legality of any verbal statements at the time.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There may well be a demand from a survey of couples, but this doesn't justify relaxing safeguards to accommodate this idea.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How would the Registrar's Office know that a schedule had not been returned as expected? Given that the notice of intent is valid for 12 months. Responsibility should remain with officiant to submit paper evidence or at least a rapid on-line submission, even ahead of the provision of signed documents. This brings legal and financial clarity if the couple lose documents, fail to respond or lose their lives shortly after marrying.

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding should be conducted at an authorised building, using a pre-approved ceremony that will ensure dignity. Therefore there is no need to send a Registration Officer to a location chosen on a whim.

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding should be conducted at an authorised building, using a pre-approved / or standard Register Office ceremony. If the authorised building did not have its own Authorised Person to conduct the ceremony on the date chosen, then a local authority Registration Officer should charge a standardised fee.

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would urge that this covers exceptional circumstances and does not slide into the promotion of casual personnel who for commercial gain offer their Officiant services anytime / anyplace / anywhere, without accountability.

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants must be linked to a valid organisation (religious or non-religious) that has a demonstrable cause to promote and support marriage. This should not slide into the accreditation of casual personnel who for commercial gain offer their services anytime / anyplace / anywhere, without accountability. Any cost of registering an officiant tied to an organisation should be borne by the organisation.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. My experience is that current legal process and costs do not discourage marriages from taking place. Couples may say they can't afford to get married, this isn't ~£100 for legal notifications, it's the £10,000 they think they need to spend on reception venue, meals, drinks, flowers, honeymoon, video / photographer, wedding cars, live band etc.
2. These proposals are seeking to make it more causal to sign-up for to marriage; trying to reduce legal costs is not going to affect a couple's planning and desire for marriage. Marriage must be seen in the light of the proven stability it brings to society, the likelihood of better outcomes for children of married parents. I really doubt if the legal costs charged today cover overall administration effort by all staff. The benefit of current laws constraints and processes must be seen in the context of reducing illegal / forced weddings, promoting legal rights for both parties and any citizenship / residency checks that underpin today's marriage processes.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Cost of a simple room hire of £57 is not excessive, the local authority should ensure basic low-cost rooms are available within their buildings.
  2. With many approved buildings, there is a range of quality and costs on a commercial basis (e.g. hotels, as well as religious), with competition amongst providers.
  3. Use of our church building is free for those who are associated with the church; likely to be common to other religious organisations. Noting that if additional services are used (music, flowers there would be additional costs), Similarly for the premises of non-religious organisations, who have a reason to promote marriage, would want to offer a venue at an affordable price to members.
  4. Use of non-authorised locations would increase costs, i.e. initial assessment, any appeals, Registration Officer's hours, time agreeing what is provided by the venue and what is provided as part of the marriage service.
- Stick with Register Office and Authorised Buildings venues, preserve the dignity and significance - and after marrying , couples can have a party anywhere they want

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. There should be statutory requirement for a Register Office to provide a simple room and ceremony at a similar cost to today's, on a range of dates to facilitate marriage.
2. Savings should not be a reason to drive towards a casual "anywhere is OK" approach as it risks bogus ceremonies, with unregistered business-driven officiants, with associated lack of legal paperwork and timely submission of signed evidence.
3. I do not think that conducting a legal marriage in an authorised building by a registered officiant / Authorised Person should be removed. Many couples want a church religious ceremony, for the sense of tradition, history and longevity it brings - even if not regular religious attendees. If couples have to attend a Register Office for the "legal bit" and make their vows then, when it comes to the main event, with quite possibly religious language, making vows "in the sight of God", it detracts from this main event with witnessed promises, if it has been done before at the Council offices, leaving them unsure exactly when they made their life-long commitment to each other.

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. If new venues are often requested, then the couple would need to bear the costs of each assessment visit.
2. Approved premises should be able to sponsor an Approved Person to act as officiant as part of their wedding offerings. If the couple decide to use a Local Authority Registration Officer then it is reasonable for a charge to be made, recognising that not every date proposed could be supported. Consideration should be given to the additional planning effort involved for the Registration Officer to dove-tail the legal part of the ceremony as part of the overall event.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. There would be little long-term benefit since a venue would only need to go through an approval once.
2. Use of Registration Officers at civil weddings, rather than an independent business-driven, may give everyone greater confidence that the transaction was completed legally. However, typically couples will seek to tailor the order of service, music, words of promise, symbolism of the ceremony to suit their aspirations; this flexibility may be difficult for a Registration Officer to accommodate, within a fixed-price booking.
3. That would give a benefit to the couple in deciding more about the ceremony, providing all parties can agree. This should not slip into use of independent business-driven officiants, with no accountability for their performance.
4. The business opportunities are there to be realised from increasing the numbers of weddings and the wider benefits of a stable relationships to

society.  
However, to promote more marriages the Government needs to consistently promote marriage as the bond that has served us well for millennia, stating its value and promoting marriage preparation , rather than trying to make it cheaper and easier.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Agreed in principle. It is not clear from the question under which jurisdiction they would be legally married, but if they are married under another jurisdiction, there must be specific advice to the couple to ensure the marriage process chosen is fully recognised in UK.
2. Similar to 1., there must be specific advice to the couple to ensure the marriage process chosen is fully recognised in another jurisdiction (e.g. a same-sex couple might marry here, but the marriage may not be valid in their own country.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. It may benefit the couple to have greater choice but I suggest little benefit to the jurisdictions of the various counties.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have already expressed my concerns over insufficient oversight / quality standards of marriages undertaken whilst at sea. I reiterate concern over the formal recording of such events, together with concerns over the form of ceremony selected and the use of prescribed sentences to validate the undertakings.

I, as an Authorised Person for a building, am able to provide multiple copies of their validated marriage certificate for their immediate use in dealing with Government, financial institutions, use in processing changes that typically follow a marriage: change of name, updates to passports, benefit claim impacts, employment etc.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It may be a benefit to a maritime business to be able to host weddings, with all the associated paying guests. For the legal Governance of marriages in raises too many concerns.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Government and local authorities may save a small amount of money if more of these free-and-easy changes are made, but if record keeping deteriorates and/or is error prone, it will cost the Government and local authorities much more to rectify.
2. Venus should benefit from being able to sell a complete package of wedding services, legal ceremony, registered officiant and hosted reception, but MUST accept they must only provide registered officiant under their authority.
3. Religious (and non-religious belief) organisations will want to continue to provide a one-stop legal marriage ceremony, in a registered building, upholding the standards of marriage. Their belief in marriage, motivates them to offer to conduct marriages.
4. Independent autonomous officiants may see this is as an opportunity to start a business. We read of court cases where the status of a couple is challenged by the parties as to whether they are assumed to be married because of co-habiting , shared assets and financial linkage - seeking a fair apportionment.
5. Couples may like to have greater flexibility over location, however they will be conscious that their wedding must be legal and formally documented as such.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTR-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:44:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Personal response

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

not applicable

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

current arrangements serve well enough

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

ten days

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

interview should be in person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

present arrangements should persist

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

present arrangements should persist

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

question unclear

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

current arrangements should persist

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1 yes

2 yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

1 yes

2 yes

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Who decides what is 'contrary to public policy' - and especially morality?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Essentially this suggests 'anyone' can apply

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

present arrangements should persist

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

this suggests making 'officiant' a business - contrary to public policy/interest

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

independent oversight

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

re-testing in line with age requirements for motorists

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage Act 1949 adequate and meets public policy/needs

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

dignity and solemnity of the status must be upheld

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal will facilitate sham marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only where dignity and solemnity can be upheld

Please share your views below:

these do not uphold solemnity requirement

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

this facilitates sham marriages

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

present arrangement should persist

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

potentially facilitates sham marriages

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

present arrangements to persist

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

potentially facilitates sham marriages

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This suggests "any" registrant might be employed - again against the solemnity of the event

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I doubt there is sufficient demand

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I doubt the present law discourages couple from marrying

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is unlikely that cost is a serious impediment to any marriage

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is unlikely that cost is a serious impediment to any marriage

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

local authorities are sufficiently resourced to cope with the current law

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is unlikely that current arrangements are a deciding factor, or even an important factor

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTH-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:45:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

'Contrary to public policy or morality' is too subjective and there needs to be a more objective criteria.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is based on promises made by each party and so words must be used in order to create a legally binding agreement. The set phrases mean that there is solemnity and that the vows are taken seriously, rather than a silly set of meaningless sentences or no words at all.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a life-long commitment and shouldn't be entered into lightly. Rather it should reflect the seriousness of the legal commitment they are making.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst there are advantages to being able to marry any where, to legally permit this means that people could this to an extreme and marry in the most ridiculous of places, which totally undermine the seriousness of the commitment they are making.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTG-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:48:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Enough time to prevent rash, immature and premature decisions.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because marriage is not just a private affair.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a) for the reasons implicit in the three points above

b) because marriage is not just a private matter, but also a public matter

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1a.

No to 1b. Each person to the marriage must know the other is in a position to marry them.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Do you propose that people may say whatever they want in the marriage ceremony?

If so, I disagree. Because that takes the word 'marriage' into Alice in Wonderland territory.

You must first define marriage; then the elements in that definition should be explicitly stated and agreed to in the ceremony.

So, if marriage is defined as an exclusive union between a man and a woman, freely undertaken, for life, and open to children, then those elements must be expressly included in the ceremony.

What's your definition of marriage?

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not just a private matter; it is a social, public matter as well.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be permitted in more than the places now allowed; but if you allow anywhere, someone will come up with a bizarre and inappropriate place.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Again:

marriage is a public matter, not just a private one.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe, yes.

Not sure how elastic the word 'dignified' is.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses, and a signed document; otherwise how does anyone know whether a marriage did or did not take place when a party to to an alleged marriage later affirms or denies they married privately?

In any case, marriage is not just a private matter; it is also a public matter.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No good reason for a three year limit.

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTU-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:49:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I married in an Anglican Church

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We chose to have a legally binding wedding

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

We wanted to have a legally binding wedding in church recognising the promises we making to each other for life

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could reduce protection against forced marriage if the bride/groom can be whisked in just for the ceremony

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be face to face as intentions can be much more clearly understood than by a remote interview

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Provided there are sufficient protections against forced marriages this is OK

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the substitute is equivalent in all respects

Please share your views below:

A substitute should only be allowed in the case of unexpected death, sudden illness or unavoidable delay.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The reading of banns should stay as it is now

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The reading of Bann should remain unchanged

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The officiant has to be satisfied the couple can legally marry so should have the necessary powers to enable this to be determined

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

The officiant has to be satisfied the couple can legally marry so should have the necessary powers to enable this to be determined

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Those choosing to be legally married in an Anglican church should be able to do so without needing to go through civil preliminaries as well.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One of the Law Commission's goals is that "the ceremony that is meaningful to the couple should be recognised by law". This can happen at the moment in churches that do not have an authorised person, by having a civil registrar to register the marriage. If this is not possible, many couples who attend such churches are likely to require a civil ceremony separate to their church wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

“contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants. The test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Provided the training and preparation for the office includes marriage

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Independent officiants can currently conduct weddings that are not legally binding. These have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Halloween. Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs. Such ceremonies could be legally binding if independent officiants were allowed, undermining the dignity of marriage.

One reason couples might choose independent officiants is because they have been refused the religious ceremony of their choice. This might happen where a couple's beliefs or behaviour are not consistent with the religion they choose for the wedding. Having an independent officiant conduct a pseudo-religious ceremony could misrepresent the religious group's position on, for example, same-sex marriage. Or there might be beliefs from more than one religion brought into a single ceremony, giving a distorted picture of all the faiths involved.

Currently there is no financial incentive to officiate a wedding. Opening up a market for independent officiants makes wedding vows a commercial concern. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries. This also risks defeating the goal of reducing costs of wedding venues, which was one of the stated aims the Government gave the Law Commission in 2018

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to 29 above

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage.

Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government.

Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind.

The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually.

The prescribed words are only a small part of the entire wedding ceremony. The rules are already extremely flexible about what happens in the rest of the ceremony. It is hard to imagine a genuine wedding in which the prescribed words could not be included at some stage.

Allowing wholly personalised wedding ceremonies without any legally-required words would send the message that marriage is an entirely private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

Non-legally binding ceremonies can already be as personalised as people want. These have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en. Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs. Personalisation will damage the dignity of the wedding ceremony.

A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective. It will not prevent couples finding an officiant to agree to even the most outlandish wishes.

The possibility of fully-tailored wedding ceremonies will encourage commercialisation. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries.

If people can entirely customise their own weddings, they might blend together different elements from faith ceremonies inappropriately, effectively making a parody of those ceremonies. This could be highly offensive to people of those faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole.

The opposite is also important; weddings which are not publicly accessible make a statement that the marriage is private and of interest only to the couple. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have a serious concern that it is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed?

The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings "in the air", suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly.

Unofficial weddings have been conducted in setting that clearly trivialise marriage.

The law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See question 47

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See Question 43 Answer

No

Please expand on your answer:

See question 43 Answer

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

none

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Perhaps on a cruise ship but struggle to see significant demand otherwise

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The decision to legally marry must be based on wanting to make solemn promises in a dignified way. Customising or trivialising legal marriage will undermine this

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF19-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:51:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We wanted to have a humanist led wedding ceremony, with a script personal to us, in a location personal to us and our families and led by someone who shares our beliefs.

As this type of marriage is not recognised by law we were unable to and had to get legally married in a registry office - very impersonal and not really relevant to what we believe and feel.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We looked into humanist ceremonies but realised they were not recognised by law, which we found very unfair and disappointing.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We did have a legally binding ceremony (the most basic register office one) which was just to get a piece of paper - it meant nothing more than that. We only had 2 witnesses in attendance. We will be having a humanist ceremony in 2021 which we will class as our actual wedding and are very much excited about and looking forward to. It doesn't seem to make sense that this cannot be the legally binding one.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Many barriers meant our legal ceremony was not meaning or personal. Restrictions from the registry office on what you can do/say. Limited choices and no opportunity to personalise. This was made even worse by covid restrictions (not their fault) but it really made the ceremony feel meaningless, short and impersonal - more so than it already would have.

Legal barriers are that a humanist celebrant cannot legally marry us.

## Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTK-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 10:59:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Churches frequently rely upon registration officers to carry out the formal aspects of the paperwork, thus enabling Church weddings to take place where no one in the Church is familiar with these aspects. This facility needs to continue to be available to Churches.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I disagree with the definition used "contrary to public policy or morality" as this is a moveable feast and could be used to unreasonable exclude those with untrendy beliefs. "Unlawful" is a reasonable definition.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The facility for "independent officiants" to register weddings could open the doors to all manner of frivolous ceremonies which would denigrate the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The standard required format of weddings has stood the test of time and is widely respected. It helps to preserve the solemnity and dignity of marriage and should be retained. There is sufficient flexibility for the format of weddings to vary around this core requirement.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As in response to Q42, there is already sufficient scope for wedding ceremonies and the wedding day as a whole to accommodate the preferences of those getting married and their guests. As with other legal processes, it is important to have a minimum core requirement to clearly and consistently reinforce the gravity and significance of the legal process being transacted.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No



Please expand on your answer:

I believe a clear choice should be made between a religious or civil ceremony and there should be consistency within each form of wedding. I cannot see how one would be able to judge if a civil ceremony "remains identifiable" as such, despite mixing in religious elements.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a legal transaction of public and community interest and as such should be an open and transparent process, similar to the public access given to court proceedings.  
To change this would accentuate the private nature of marriage at the expense of its public interest and significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity, seriousness and public accessibility of weddings is influenced by the choice of venue. Therefore it should not be possible for weddings to take place anywhere, including potentially frivolous locations.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFT4-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 11:08:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Christian Institute

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

#### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The consultation paper notes that as many as half of all places of worship do not have a registered person (5.59). We would draw attention to the fact that this will include a significant number of churches that use registration officers for weddings. We know that this is the case at some of the churches our supporters attend.

Churches that use civil registrars choose to pay for this service even though there is no equivalent recurring cost to have a church member fulfil the role. There are a variety of reasons for this. Many small congregations rarely hold weddings or have regularly changing leadership. It is impractical or unduly burdensome for them to keep track of the training, legal requirements and related administration that registering weddings would require. These congregations depend on being able to use civil registrars. They are rightly taking seriously their responsibility to ensure their wedding ceremonies comply with the legal requirements.

As a consequence of this change, some Christian couples who wish to have legally binding religious ceremonies in their own churches – and could currently do so – will instead be denied them. This reduction in access to meaningful marriage ceremonies contradicts the stated intentions of the proposals.<sup>[1]</sup> These couples will have to hold a civil ceremony separate to a more meaningful religious service that holds no legal status.

We struggle to see the justification for this move. The consultation paper comments that the presence of a civil registration officer at a religious wedding may lead to confusion about whether this is a separate civil wedding (5.57). This confusion is unlikely regarding church weddings. The inevitable conclusion is that churches are being penalised as a consequence of venue options being expanded. It also seems contradictory that the Law Commission asks about including religious elements in civil ceremonies, which is potentially far more confusing (6.73-6.110).

If the proposal to expand the possible venues for weddings goes ahead, guidance from the General Register Office could define the role of civil registration officers at religious weddings. This could explain that they are responsible for the legal administration but are not participating in any religious aspects of the service. If needed, further clarification could be provided to the couple and witnesses by attending officers on the day of the ceremony itself.

The Law Commission believes the proposed change will improve access to civil weddings (5.58). As this requires a corresponding reduction in religious weddings, it risks discriminating against those choosing religious ceremonies.

<sup>1</sup> 'Getting Married: A Scoping Paper', The Law Commission, 17 Dec 2015, page 70

#### Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to change the current provisions that ordination within the Church of England and Church of Wales qualifies that person to officiate a wedding.

#### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be nominated by the relevant governing authority of each organisation, who can ensure that their nominee is the appropriate person to carry out the role.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It is not clear how well this definition of non-religious belief organisations would work in practice. While definitions of 'religious' groups have long been disputed, there is extensive precedent and broad agreement over the approach taken in law. The proposed definition has apparently been tested against Humanist beliefs, but it is unclear which other groups might potentially fall within the category or be excluded. The consultation acknowledges this in asking about groups which might be specifically excluded (5.147).

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Evaluating organisations' purposes against 'public policy or morality' is much too subjective. In a democratic country, people are free to disagree and dispute one another's political or moral stances. This is especially the case within the plurality of religious beliefs in England and Wales. There cannot be any single 'public morality' to which every group could be compared, other than mere prevailing opinion. This is likely to disadvantage views that were once mainstream – and remain perfectly lawful – but have fallen out of favour.

In our work we have given support to many individuals who have been wrongly discriminated against for lawful but unpopular beliefs. We are concerned that any law seeking to exclude religious organisations from marrying couples based on a 'public policy or morality' test could discriminate against those holding traditional Christian views.

The assessment should be based on more objective and clearly defined benchmarks: organisations promoting purposes that are illegal, promote illegal activity or undermine the rule of law, for example.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Consultation Terms of Reference state that it is not the responsibility of the Law Commission to "make recommendations as to whether the groups who can solemnize marriage can be expanded".[1] At the same time the consultation paper states the aim to create a system that "treats groups the same", applying the same rules to each (5.143). Yet this cannot be the case, nor should it be. Each 'group' has its own values and objectives, as well as corresponding risks.

This is most obviously the case for 'independent officiants'. While religious groups and the civil registration system have clearly defined reasons for carrying out marriages, independent celebrants are typically used by couples who wish to hold ceremonies that fall outside what the law permits. While this may be for relatively uncontroversial reasons – to hold a wedding outdoors, for example – there are many cases of ceremonies taking place which are highly undignified. Little academic research has been done in this area, but we note the article 'The day of their dreams' in Child and Family Law Quarterly.[2] A large number of examples are given: a ceremony held in the "sale ring of a local cattle market" where the celebrant acted as auctioneer; a ceremony held in a "theatre made to look like a woodland burrow"; ceremonies focused on the consumption of alcohol; a ceremony "on Hallowe'en in 'the ruin of a leper hospital'"; one couple who dressed as hedgehogs; and "two ceremonies in an 'S&M dungeon'". It is obvious that these ceremonies would (rightly) not fall within the current requirements for a legal ceremony. Yet under the proposals these may be possible at the officiant's discretion. Celebrants who take part in these ceremonies produce a significant risk to the dignity and solemnity of marriage, and this is not properly considered by the proposals.

Independent celebrants also have an extraordinarily low threshold of the acceptability of content in ceremonies they conduct.[3] Of the same study's 287 respondents, 22 said they would impose no boundaries at all on the content couples wish to include. A further 34 would only require that the content be "non-criminal" and "posed no health or safety risk". The study suggests that almost a quarter of all independent celebrants were willing to conduct weddings that contained obscene, violent or offensive content. It is unthinkable that the threshold for what is acceptable within a marriage ceremony could be set so low.

Another danger relates to the inclusion of religious content within independent celebrants' ceremonies. One of the main reasons couples choose independent celebrants is to access religious ceremonies where religious officiants have refused to carry it out. Most often this will happen when a couple's beliefs or lifestyle are inconsistent with that required for the chosen ceremony. It is deeply hurtful when religious beliefs are parodied by pseudo-religious ceremonies, carried out by those with no belief in what they say or do. Falsified versions of religious rites must not be allowed in legally binding wedding ceremonies.

1 Terms of Reference, 1.3, page 1. <https://bit.ly/3nqS6izremonies>.

2 Pywell, S, 'The day of their dreams: celebrant-led wedding celebration ceremonies', Child and Family Law Quarterly, June 2020

3 Ibid

#### Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The responsibility for nomination of officiants should lie with the relevant organisation. However, some safeguards are advisable. An age restriction and requirement that the legal responsibilities are understood (as proposed for independent officiants) should be declared by the nominating organisation. It may be reasonable to ask nominating organisations to provide basic details of suitable training undertaken.

While it is inappropriate for the law to prescribe who can represent a religious group or what training they should have taken, there is a great deal of variety among groups. It is right that the law should maintain the seriousness and dignity of marriage by taking steps to ensure those who administer it are 'fit and proper'.

#### Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See our answer to question 29: we believe that the inclusion of independent officiants within any scheme jeopardises the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The current law recognises the seriousness of marriage, but there are many examples of independent celebrants providing unofficial services that could never be considered appropriate.

With such a significant risk involved, there must be robust safeguards put in place if independent officiants were introduced. A 'fit and proper' test would require much more than a minimum age and training set out by the Registrar General.

#### Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Churches provide a valuable service to their community by holding weddings, not for any profit of their own. Although some Humanist weddings occur because they are representative of the beliefs of those being married, studies have found that in Scotland the majority who choose such ceremonies do so for the personalisation available.[1] It would be of great concern if 'non-religious beliefs' became a legal loophole for the commercialisation of wedding ceremonies. Such officiants should be prohibited from making a business from officiating at weddings. There should be no profit-making incentive. Any fees chargeable for legal weddings should be in line with Civil Register Officers on a cost recovery basis.

1 Pywell, S, 'Beyond beliefs: a proposal to give couples in England and Wales a real choice of marriage officiants', Child and Family Law Quarterly, Sept 2020

#### Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Legally recognised wedding ceremonies must not be commercialised. Any fees chargeable for legal weddings should be in line with Civil Register Officers on a cost-recovery basis.

Independent celebrants say they want to offer couples the chance to personalise their ceremony or hold them at venues not currently allowed.[1] While this may be true, it is unlikely they would be motivated to continue offering such services without also making a profit from it. The cost to have a registrar attend a wedding at a registry office is £46, yet independent celebrants self-report charging up to £3,000 even though they cannot legally marry a

couple.[2]

These extremely high prices that can already be paid for independent celebrants suggest that opening up a marketplace for highly individualised legal ceremonies would vastly increase the fee couples will be expected to pay for ever-more outlandish weddings. There will be a financial incentive for officiants to push the boundaries of taste. This has extremely concerning implications for the dignity and solemnity of weddings and would also conflict with the Law Commission's clear aim of reducing weddings costs (Terms of Reference, 1.32, page 17 and 2.1, page 27). See also our answers to question 29 and 31.

This sector is currently small. A large proportion of independent celebrants only started to practise in the last few years.[3] It is likely that (if they are enabled by Government to officiate at legal weddings) the sector will grow even more rapidly, with many seeking to make a profit from the opportunity. The system must protect wedding ceremonies from profiteering.

1 Pywell, S, 'The day of their dreams: celebrant-led wedding celebration ceremonies', Child and Family Law Quarterly, June 2020

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a profoundly serious commitment, and it is right to uphold the dignity and solemnity of the wedding ceremony in law. We are, however, concerned that the proposal does not go far enough, relating only to the "conduct of the officiant rather than the content of the ceremony" (5.194). While we accept that the officiant cannot be held responsible for undignified actions of attendees on the day itself, responsibility for the content and tone of the ceremony should nonetheless remain with the officiant.

'Dignity' and 'solemnity' lack clear definition. The threshold appears to be remarkably low, with weddings "in the air" expected to fall within the scheme. Given the seriousness with which marriage commitments must be made and the risks involved in the proposed widening of options for wedding ceremonies, these highly subjective terms should be fully explained, and the responsibilities set in law.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance should emphasise the seriousness of the marriage commitments and that dignity and solemnity of marriage must be upheld in the conduct, content and tone of the ceremony. It should be clear that this consideration hugely outweighs the wishes of the parties.

Guidance alone is not enough to allay concerns about the implications of the proposals for the wedding ceremony. Stronger safeguards need to be created. Complying with the guidance would have to be binding upon officiants. Those found to have breached it should be deemed to be failing to comply with their responsibilities and duties, with potential sanctions including de-authorisation.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

While we agree, we refer to our response to question 26. It is not possible to measure officiants against 'public policy or morality' as this is far too subjective and likely to penalise legally held but unpopular views. 'Failure to comply' must be limited to their clearly defined legal responsibilities, which should include abiding by guidance upholding the dignity of marriage. Particular care and sensitivity would be required if the General Register Office took action against an officiant nominated by a religious organisation.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

We do not believe that independent officiants should be authorised to officiate at weddings (see question 29).

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposed removal of the 'prescribed words' is a serious concern. The current requirements in law are minimal, with the Marriage Act 1949 containing only two short declarations which must be made in a marriage ceremony. However, despite their brevity, they set out a framework of what is anticipated in a legal marriage ceremony. Any impediment to marry should have been found in the preliminaries, but the assertion within the ceremony makes a verbal statement to those witnessing that this is the case at the point of marriage, adding certainty. A couple will have twelve months from completing the preliminaries in which to get married. Significant things could change in this time, including one of the parties marrying someone else abroad. The prescribed words mean that there is a public declaration, on the wedding day, that the parties are both free and willing to marry.

The second phrase – "I [name] take you [or thee] [name] to be my wedded wife [or husband]" – is reduced in the proposals to an 'expression of consent'.<sup>[1]</sup> But this ignores the strong implication of 'intent' that it also contains. It makes clear that intent is a key element to legal marriage for both parties: marriage cannot be entered into passively. The current proposals could negatively impact the public understanding of what marriage means, the lifelong commitment it represents, and the positive effort required by both parties to make marriage work. Marriage is not something that is 'done' to a consenting individual – merely a change in legal status – but a lifelong choice which requires active participation.

The current verbal commitment is the most suitable way to ensure that the law's expectation and requirements are equally met at every marriage ceremony. The form of words used within Anglican ceremonies is similar to the requirements for civil weddings and 'other religious' weddings.<sup>[2]</sup> A majority of respondents to the pre-consultation stated that their ceremonies would be able to include the prescribed words. Given how minimal the requirements are, it is difficult to conceive of a genuine wedding which could not manage to include verbal declarations at some point – even if this was a discrete part of the ceremony.

Prescribed words are a minimal requirement that helps set out the legal expectation and meaning of marriage. They do not prevent wedding ceremonies being adapted or the personality and beliefs of the couple being displayed on the wedding day. As the consultation paper notes "the law has allowed considerable freedom as to the religious rites that can accompany [religious] weddings" (10.102) and we see no reason to suggest that prescribed words impede that freedom.

Elevating couples' preferences to the extent of saying that it must be possible to completely personalise a ceremony suggests a gross misunderstanding of marriage. In getting married, a couple is entering an institution that is understood by society and has a legal definition. The public declaration is something that society and the law have an interest in. Wholly personalised wedding ceremonies send the message that the marriage is only about the couple, an entirely private matter that is decoupled from the law and wider society. This is a damaging misconception.

<sup>1</sup> Marriage Act 1949, Section 44

<sup>2</sup> 'Marriage', The Church of England, see <https://bit.ly/3qZzSqF> as at 16/12/2020

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is not clear. To the extent that the Law Commission supports the removal of current requirement for specific 'usages' for certain groups, we defer to the relevant groups. However, where the proposal seeks to reaffirm 'individualisation' and 'customisability' of marriage ceremonies, this has entirely the wrong emphasis. (See our answer to question 42.)

The seriousness of the commitments made in marriage is foremost; the dignity and solemnity of marriage must be maintained within the ceremony. Again, the article 'The day of their dreams' has many examples of inappropriate forms of ceremonies already taking place: underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Halloween to select just a few.<sup>[1]</sup> If this proposal is enacted, it opens the door to these forms of ceremonies being recognised in law. Even where an officiant does not agree

with such a ceremony, the couple can simply find another officiant who is willing. Again, this inevitably commercialises wedding ceremonies, offering a financial incentive to officiants most willing to be 'flexible'.

There is also the issue of religious elements being included within civil ceremonies, as mentioned in our response to question 29 and again below. Parties cannot simply pick-and-mix religious elements without reducing the marriage ceremony to parody or fantasy, causing offence and damaging the dignity and seriousness of the occasion.

1 Pywell, S, 'The day of their dreams: celebrant-led wedding celebration ceremonies', Child and Family Law Quarterly, June 2020

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There is the obvious possibility that this proposal might blur the lines between civil and religious services, which must be considered. In other contexts, like barring civil registrars from officiating at religious weddings, the consultation paper also recognises this concern. A wedding ceremony needs to provide certainty that it has been properly conducted, and there is a danger that the inclusion of some religious elements could cast doubt on this. For example, the use of some religious rites might give rise to the concern that, as they were not administered by a religious authority, they are meaningless and void. However, this would arguably breach the requirement that the ceremony remains identifiable as a civil rather than religious ceremony.

As previously mentioned, some religious practices being performed outside their proper setting might parody genuine religious beliefs and ceremonies, causing deep offence to those of religious faith.

Please share your views below:

Readings from the Bible are unlikely to parody or cause offence and could be of great benefit to the couple and attendees.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement of wedding ceremonies is not only a much-loved tradition, but also an asset to a couple's day. Marriage is vital to our society, laying the foundations for healthy family life and healthy communities. Marriage is not a private affair: it creates permanent bonds between families, establishes new economic units and brings other benefits beyond the individuals involved.<sup>[1]</sup> When couples divorce it has a huge impact on society, from additional support required for children, the need for more housing, the greatly increased potential of financial hardship, and the damage done to social cohesion when couples fall out and tear apart groups of friends and family. Marriage is personal, but not 'private'.

The requirement that wedding ceremonies take place with 'open doors' makes a clear statement about the societal role that marriage plays. Removing it would suggest the opposite.

Historically, a significant reason for having open doors at weddings was as a safeguard against abuses such as forced or bigamous marriages, as acknowledged by the consultation paper (6.122, page 201). These concerns still exist in our society. While abuses should be discovered through the preliminaries, this is not always the case. Moreover, that fact that a couple will have twelve months to get married after completing the preliminaries creates a substantial window in which circumstances could change dramatically. Someone could marry in another jurisdiction, for example, or one party could decide against marrying but be forced to continue with it. It seems reckless to dispense with the important safeguard of open doors, which allows concerns to be raised on the day. The existence of the open doors policy has a deterrent effect that is valuable, regardless of whether examples of its use can be found.

1 The vast range of benefits that marriage provides are summarised in Family Structure Still Matters, August 2020, Centre for Social Justice, <https://bit.ly/2KbHdD3>

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Most churches that do not currently own their buildings but meet in schools or community centres, for example, cannot hold weddings. The proposal could enable many of them to have legal wedding ceremonies in their own places of worship. This would be a clear benefit of the proposal, but there are also major dangers that would outweigh the positives unless proper precautions are built in.

We are deeply concerned by how permissive the system outlined in the consultation paper would be. While it states that the officiant will have to ensure the venue is “safe and dignified” (7.5), it mentions weddings taking place “in the air” (7.137) and notes that no evidence has been found of couples in England insisting on ceremonies in undignified locations (7.139). It is very surprising and disappointing that weddings “in the air” seem to be considered dignified (in particular, examples of ‘parachuting’ ceremonies).[1] There are accounts of ceremonies taking place in locations as varied as a supermarket aisle,[2] an ‘S&M dungeon’, ‘the ruin of a leper hospital’ and a cattle-market.[3] The law must not recognise or enable these venues to be considered suitable for a wedding.

Strong safeguards would be required to prevent marriage being trivialised. One option might be to require the General Register Office's approval for any venues that have not previously been used for weddings, to help guarantee their suitability. Marriage is an extremely serious commitment, which must take place in a dignified and solemn setting. The law has a duty to uphold this.

1 Pywell, S, ‘The day of their dreams: celebrant-led wedding celebration ceremonies’, Child and Family Law Quarterly, June 2020

2 ‘Couple marry in Morrisons supermarket Easter egg aisle’, BBC, 28 March 2015, see <https://bbc.in/3aeLz6T> as at 16/12/2020

3 Pywell, S, ‘The day of their dreams: celebrant-led wedding celebration ceremonies’, Child and Family Law Quarterly, June 2020

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

We are opposed to any removal of the ‘open doors’ requirement for weddings – see our answer to question 47. It should not be necessary for the specific venue to be otherwise available to the public, although such venues are likely to be most suitable.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Blurring the lines between religious and civil wedding ceremonies in a significant way would be a mistake. Clarity and certainty are important concepts for wedding law. However, the key point is for the ceremonies to be distinct. It should be clear from the ceremony whether it is a religious or civil wedding, irrespective of the venue. This does not negate the importance of the venue being an appropriately dignified one, as stressed elsewhere in this response.

Certainly, there must be no way to compel religious venues to host a wedding ceremony against the religious organisation's will. As the consultation paper notes, property rights rightly allow the owners of religious buildings to prohibit their use for non-religious purposes (7.155). This must not be changed.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

We have reservations about a lack of safeguards for the dignity of the venue if the responsibility is placed solely on officiants. Please see our answers to questions 48 and 52.

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Responsibility for safety and dignity should be part of the duty of officiants, and they should be held to account. However, there are concerns if officiants would be able to unilaterally ‘approve’ venues.

Previous answers note the many undignified locations that have previously been accepted by individual celebrants, including ‘S&M dungeons’ and ‘the ruins of a leper hospital’. These are clearly unacceptable, so strong safeguards should be put in place. Approval by the General Register Office required would be one option. Nonetheless, approval of a venue might not guarantee its suitability on a given wedding day. For example, if a theatre were

approved, it could hold an appropriate ceremony on one day but be dressed in an undignified way the next. The responsibility of the officiant to ensure dignity would then be relied upon.

The process of approving many buildings should initially be straightforward as it should be possible to transfer currently approved venues into any new scheme. It should also be possible to pre-approve religious venues that are the regular place of worship of approved officiants, for example.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be strong and binding guidance from the GRO on suitable venues, but the relevant definitions need to be clarified: it is unclear how the consultation paper defines 'safe and dignified'. These are highly subjective terms, yet the dignity of ceremony venues is critical to the proper understanding of the significance of the marriage.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness of marriage demands that anyone deliberately misleading a couple as to their role, or the status and effect of the marriage ceremony should be penalised. The Law Commission is right to focus “on discouraging individuals – whether officiants or persons purporting to be officiants – from engaging in conduct that would result in a void marriage” (10.166). Such behaviour merits criminalisation.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Regarding independent officiants, please see our response to question 29 and related questions.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see our response to question 29 and related questions.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with the principle that the Registrar General should be able to prescribe a fee for applications. This should be as low as possible for officiants who are not operating for personal or organisational profit. It would be very disappointing to see churches having to pay any more than they currently do for registering a building for solemnisation of marriage.

Should commercial officiants be allowed (which we disagree with) then a different fee scale might be appropriate, to support what we believe should be additional oversight of such officiants by the GRO.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTJ-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 11:14:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most people probably don't see the notices at the registrar's office.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person. This idea poses a danger of some churches falling foul of weddings law, as they are required to take responsibility for unfamiliar legalities in order to hold a religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Definitely not. "Contrary to public policy or morality" is too subjective. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants. The test should instead focus on objective criteria - such as promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage. Independent officiants have conducted not-legally-binding weddings including ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Halloween. If such ceremonies were made legally binding it would undermine the dignity of marriage.

Additionally, an independent officiant could conduct a pseudo-religious ceremony which could misrepresent the religious group's position on, for example, same-sex marriage. Or there might be beliefs from more than one religion brought into a single ceremony, giving a distorted picture of all the faiths involved.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently there is no financial incentive to officiate a wedding. Opening up a market for independent officiants makes wedding vows a commercial concern. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries. This also risks defeating the goal of reducing costs of wedding venues, which was one of the stated aims the Government gave the Law Commission in 2018.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a serious life commitment and should be shown as such during the ceremony.

But this requirement is too subjective - particularly independent officiants could still interpret it with huge variation and approval of outlandish ceremonies.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

(1) The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government. (2) Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind. (3) The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually. (4) Allowing wholly personalised wedding ceremonies without any legally-required words would send the message that marriage is an entirely private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

(1) It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.  
(2) Non-legally binding ceremonies can already be as personalised as people want. These have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, etc. Personalisation will damage the dignity of the wedding ceremony.  
(3) A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective.  
(4) If people can entirely customise their own weddings, they might blend together different elements from faith ceremonies inappropriately, effectively making a parody of those ceremonies. This could be highly offensive to people of those faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole.  
Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed? Unofficial weddings have been conducted underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Halloween. Such settings clearly trivialise marriage. The law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees



Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. For the majority it is the idea of selfless commitment that many are 'discouraged' by, but this is absolutely essential to what marriage is and cannot be removed.
2. It may lead to an increase but in general this would not be a good thing, as it will likely be an increase in marriages taken less seriously and so will they be far less likely to last. Rather have people face the present-day solemn commitment that marriage is, than have more subscribe to a cheapened version. This answer is particularly pertaining to the proposed laws about individualisation and privatisation of wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTC-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 11:19:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage isn't a rush job

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

One month, be serious. Marriage is not shopping

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Face to face or not at all.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

OK. Outside England and Wales

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a priest or registrar

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse

Please share your views below:

No. See above

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If the banns are in the church where the wedding takes place it's more likely that a marriage preparation course can take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. marriage matters/

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Probably both together

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Is the church messing up?

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's worked for a long time

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registrars should remain for other or no faiths. Otherwise slow motion chaos .

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A humanist ceremony can take place after the civil marriage

Please share your views below:

How long is your list?

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What rod to your want for your backs?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I should say so.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Diversity = complexity

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Limit charges

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What a good idea

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Oh please

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

GRO has better things to do

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See what you are letting yourself in for.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Broadly OK if clear consent to marriage has been given

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a personal and social contract not a piece of personal theatre

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise they will sign up to gay marriage

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What religious content? Voodoo

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You want the village old ladies to thump you

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If you have a lovely garden , or want it on Rockall, get permission from the local registrar, for a fee for that occasion and have the registrar turn up.

Please share your views below:

See above. But don't encourage the exhibitionists

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a private place is agreed by the registrar for a wedding then it should be remain private

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only with the permission and presence of the registrar

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

pen and blood

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Probably

No

Please expand on your answer:

Do it properly with witnesses and signed - as with other contracts

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No cohabitation - how many fake marriages do you want

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Don't know.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep the registrar

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Emergencies become normal

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

With permission and presence of registrar

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

as above

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

authorised ship's officer only

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Neptune?

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Any evidence that the current arrangements discourage marriage? A few more venues with registrar's permission and presence sounds fine but go too far and weddings become just a party and the marriage becomes superficial - like shopping - and there are more broken dreams.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTS-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 11:25:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some kind of checks to ensure they are legally resident in the UK before applying to be married under UK law

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

7 days would be the minimum, however 14 days allows further time for any checks to be carried out, why would someone be in such a rush? (unless of course in special cases such as terminally ill, etc)

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If they are not in person there is more scope for fraud and sham weddings

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

yes this makes sense, hasnt it always been this way?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should feel comfortable with the couple and that they are truthful etc

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

couples would be forced to have a civil ceremony ahead of their desired church wedding, some churches do not have an authorised person (maybe because they are small rural churches or do not conduct many weddings) My own church hardly ever conducts weddings because it is ugly and people do not like it for pictures!

Also, some churches might not be up to date with current laws and need an authorised person to guide them through this, otherwise would they fall foul of the ceremony not being recognised by law?)

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure where you would stop at if you allowed many organisations to officiate at weddings? Unsure of this question.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

How do we determine what is contrary to public policy or morality? My morality could be different to yours, and what if my moral opinion is based on views that are not popular, which prevails?

This point should be more objective and deal with facts - so any wedding seen to be promoting an illegal activity could be banned for example.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes if these are recognised offices

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

all other "businesses" are regulated, why shouldnt this one be to avoid illegal activities and fraud on the part of the officiant

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It seems we could be at risk of undermining marriage if anyone can simply choose to officiate at a wedding, thereby making it a somewhat lucrative employment choice, pushing up prices. I thought this was against the aims of the Law Commission given in 2018?

The question of where would this end comes to mind: marriage should be taken seriously and if those conducting the service do not hold marriage in high esteem, or they are not trained and understand the law, this makes a mockery of the institution of marriage. Currently, "celebrants" do this and in most cases it is because the couple want something "different" and thus are not taking their marriage vows seriously.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

couples choose the officiant based on their belief system

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

should be an independent oversight, as well as the individual organisation

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

provisionally yes, but what if they have been in the position for decades and legal requirements have changed, how are they made aware and thus re-trained?

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should be made to say vows to each other as that is the basis for the marriage contract, it is a promise, a vow to each other. Also, they might not say anything at all - what is this because they don't actually understand the words being said? This is dangerous.

What is the point of the marriage ceremony if the couple or the officiant can change the words or get rid of them completely? You might as well just get a civil partnership and a certificate from a registrar. it could be reduced to popping out for a quick drink and not taken seriously as it should be.

Marriage is a public declaration, not only of your love for one another, but your commitment to each other and is legally binding.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see comments on q.42 above.

How do we ensure the seriousness of the commitment and dignity of the ceremony itself? Couples could get married anywhere, which could be highly

inappropriate - who determines what is dignified and safe? It should be defined.

I understand that currently you can get "married" anywhere although this is just a sham and the marriage has to be registered afterwards. If we make this kind of "joke" wedding legal, why even have marriage laws in the beginning, it makes a joke out of the vows you are taking.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think you have to choose between civil or religious ceremony, even if that civil marriage is then "blessed" by the church in a non-binding ceremony afterwards

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It has long been held that a marriage is a "community" pledge, the couple is part of society and marriage benefits society as a whole (the facts support this), it is not a private deal, done behind closed doors but should be open for public (although not the refreshments afterwards!)  
What if a marriage were a sham, how could someone alert the officiant to this if they are not allowed to enter or know when and where the wedding is?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle I would say that I agree.

HOWEVER, as expressed above there must be a safeguards put in place to restrict weddings taking place in a wholly unsuitable venue where the seriousness of the ceremony is mocked.

Please share your views below:

Having weddings in the air takes away the seriousness and undermines the wedding vows - see my comments on vows above.

So long as on solid ground (even if that is on a large boat or a pontoon) the wedding couple and the guests can clearly see and hear what is going on and there are no "distractions" from that.

private homes - this is contentious - if it is a large stately home, set out for this purpose that is fine but in someone's normal residence is too familiar and does not allow the wedding to be public.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see comment above

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The whole reason people get married in church is because they hold a religious conviction, this cannot be mocked. However, I do believe that religious weddings could take place in non-religious venues due to the nature of the words that are said and who is saying them.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

they venues should be licensed as such, officiants should however be able to refuse to conduct a wedding ceremony if they disagree with the venue due to their own beliefs

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

again yes in principle but this is subjective, this must be looked at carefully, see my comments to similar questions.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

witnesses should be required  
the marriage should be registered to be legal

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure I understand what is being said here, the intention should be that the couple live together except in very rare cases where this is not possible due to illness (care home residents, terminally ill) etc.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if you want to get married, get married as otherwise there is no protection in law for that marriage, again dont make a mockery out of marriage

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but of course notice could be very short - their doctor's confirmation should be included in this "interview" however that is carried out (they need to be of sound mind etc)

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony could be put off until after a national emergency but not remotely - why would you need to do this?

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

there is always demand for any kind of "different" wedding venue but again the public nature and seriousness must be taken into account and the reasons why someone would want to get married in international waters? Which law then governs the wedding?

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should be no barrier to checking the venue except for reasonable expenses

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

An increase in those being married is always a good thing but not if that ceremony is not taken seriously, the current laws enable everyone to get married that wants to.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs are not that great, it is the rest of it that people spend money on - they have no trouble getting into debt for a honeymoon but moan about the cost of a ceremony! Many churches do not charge at all (or it is a nominal fee based on the ability of the couple to pay).

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

marriage should not be reduced down to cost

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1N-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 11:46:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm in a Catholic marriage.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This has been going on for centuries for a reason and it should be done to protect both parties in case of other illegal marital situations going on at the same time. Bigamy or polygamy is not legal in the UK.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because a lot of people still don't have access to the internet or email or have no knowledge of what goes on in the internet world and this could lead to ignoring the news of people getting married.

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should continue as if one of the parties is from another country, it only makes sense that notices should be given in their country too.

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious Weddings are to take place in a church since marriage is a sacrament.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1V-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 11:46:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have attended a zoom "celebration" of a wedding event which could not be officially registered at that moment in time, due to C19 restrictions in place. It went through the vows and celebrations as would have happened in church but lacked legal basis until a subsequent event could take place. This was disappointing but on the other hand enabled people from all over the country, and the US, Jamaica and South Africa to 'attend' on the front row!

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be longer than a midweek break! Marriage is a solemn business and should be treated as more permanent than a half term treat. The residential qualification at least points to some aim of permanence on the arrangement.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Notice should be given AFTER an in-person interview, not before. Otherwise what is the point of the interview, when publicising is assumed.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

14 days.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, in person interviewing is far more preferable in terms of picking up on body language, facial expressions and mood. Even online screen meetings are not going to do this.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes online notice should still be given after an interview.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

don't know.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both parts, for extra safeguard that this marriage is freely entered into.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

some churches who host weddings infrequently may not be able to access registration officers so easily and so may train and support their own people.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

no, this makes the govt the arbiter of true religion when believers have Divine revelation from God and will not in this matter of conscience obey the state but obey God.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

they will know them best.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but allow for cultural expressions to be permissible.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on how you draw up and amend the 'fit and proper' criteria! If you include aspects of public policy that people of faith in conscience cannot agree to, then again the State will be over ruling God and Christians will not tolerate that.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again it depends on what this 'professional development' might be. If it is to change religious conviction then no.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Solemnity is implied by use of a serious place for such a ceremony to take place.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would you want to reduce accessibility to such an important event? It should be a public declaration of intent to marry until death.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be beyond the local officiant to decide.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO should be doing this themselves, not advising others.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should not self declare their relationship but this should be reflecting their official status.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In person registration is more secure.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

why this desire to do whacky weddings in odd places? It is not entertainment but a solemn oath.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

no demand.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

People who want to get married as a public oath of commitment are not put off by any of the supposed barriers that many of these changes are attempting to overcome.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cost should not be a barrier to marriage; however many couples seem to want to spend money on 'the event' rather than 'the life'. Better for govt to be investing in wedding preparation training for couples than lesser physical barriers to the wedding event.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

3. Churches are well-placed to come round a couple to help them become married and stay married for the benefit of themselves, any children and society as a whole.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF15-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 11:50:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person.

This idea poses a danger of some churches falling foul of weddings law, as they are required to take responsibility for unfamiliar legalities in order to hold a religious ceremony

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

“contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

The possibility of fully-tailored wedding ceremonies will encourage commercialisation. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

the 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole.

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings "in the air", suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDQ-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 12:02:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that you have NO CHOICE not to have a legally binding wedding because of all the other legal obligations that come with being legally married.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I felt very strongly about having a non - religious wedding, this was important to me on many levels.

Obviously wanting a legally binding humanist marriage, I found was not possible in England and Wales.

This made a huge difference to our wedding plans as we both felt so strongly about having a legally binding humanist wedding and ensuring no religious content

We had to make some hard decisions and had to shrink our guest list and go to Scotland to be legally married and have our humanist ceremony.

Also we wanted a celebrant who understood what we wanted and we could develop a good relationship with and create a script that reflected us as a couple. This was so good that my celebrant and I still keep in touch.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Move with the times, remote interviews are fine, any concerns get the couples in for a face to face interview.

Obvioulsy people would need training on what to look out for especially wih sham/forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are not living in the 1800's

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on circumstances, eg a pandemic  
Consider 18 months

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:



You can not predict anything happening to the officiant/celebrant prior to a wedding eg sickness and someone stepping in last minute. Despite having a backup person.

#### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes if it is ANY substitute ., because you can not guarantee the substitute being available either due to death, sudden illness etc.

Please share your views below:

As long as they are fully trained.

If it was a celebrant for example with Humanis UK or Scotland then all celebrants are fully trained and will be available if another celebrant is unable to attend for whatever reason.

#### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Get rid of the bans altogether!!!! We are not living in the same world as when they were devised..

#### Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Get rid of the bans!!

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You should propose humanist celebrants to officiate weddings!!

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't like to the word "conformity!

Please share your views below:

.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think you get paid for the work you put in!

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this fair? I don't think so, considering the previous question.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the religious or non religious organisations should do this.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the said established organisations

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

if it is what the couple want

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be the organisations

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on the circumstances and distance, time etc

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

People who are terminally ill have enough to think about, stay compassionate!

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is going to be difficult - what if you can get married anywhere - have a limited budget and want to get married in your back garden and then you have to have it approved?

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There would be no need if non religious oraganisations (humanist uk) could do this.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Registry offices do this now don't they?

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A non religious officiant/celebrant should be authorised by their organisation.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

If you were to include non religious ceremonies I think more people would obviously increase the numbers who would legally marry.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

One thing I noticed when arranging my wedding was the fact that prices for things increased with the word "wedding" in the sentence

Cakes

Venues

Stationary

Entertainment

Photography

I got more value for money with my humanist than I saw with my friends registry wedding that it for sure! Same costing.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I think if you focus on religious and non religious then this reform would be simple, take out the independent officiants as they are not required in this. This is what is making this complicated.  
The main focus is the couples themselves, I feel very strongly that I could not have the legally binding wedding I wanted with all my family and friends in England.  
The thought of a registry office weddings was awful and to be pushed into picking a.b.c ceremony... no thanks.  
Thankfully Scotland allowed legal recognition to humanist marriages - otherwise we would not be married today!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1G-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 12:07:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Try not to change the wedding vows etc. People should realise Church or not it's a precious time to be honoured

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFT1-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 12:14:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is important that information about any proposal of marriage between 2 parties is clearly available to the public and that unless there is evidence of residence in England or Wales weddings could be arranged for people to arrive immediately prior to the wedding and then depart and there would be no public knowledge of the marriage, thus facilitating sham marriages and forced marriages.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Without an in-person interview the system would lay itself open to personalisation and fraudulent substitution of names and people.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as there is a clear indication that the notice of marriage has been made so any interested parties can access the information.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there must be clear evidence that the 'substitute' is an officially recognised and capable person the officiate and due notice given or a substitution could be made to the disadvantage of one of the parties being married.

Please share your views below:

A substitute should only be used if she or he is a fully recognised an officially appointed capable person.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. It is important that the officiant at any wedding has previously met and is able to recognise each of the parties to be married to ensure there is no substitution of one or other of the parties.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Without both parties making the declarations the system would be open to misrepresentation.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

A Church of England or Church in Wales ceremony should not need a previous civil ceremony if the officiant at the church wedding is fully recognised as capable and officially appointed for the role.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These matters are crucial to ensuring the marriage is carried out in a seemly and legal manner.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Where a church has no 'appointed person, this proposal would deprive the couple of a full wedding ceremony at the church and necessitate a separate function at a civil wedding venue.

Having a civil registrar at a church for a wedding would facilitate the arrangements and avoid a previous and unnecessary additional civil ceremony. The system works well as it currently stands.

Where a church has a small congregation and no authorised person to officiate at weddings, this proposal poses a danger of the church falling foul of the weddings laws which must be upheld at all times.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. They need to be officially recognised as fully capable of understanding the marriage laws. Just being a Clerk in Holy Orders does not mean they have had the appropriate training unless it is made part of their ordination requirements.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the nominated official has undergone the vetting and training needed to ensure they are capable and fully cognisant of the marriage laws. Otherwise marriages could be celebrated by any person nominated which could lead to breaking the marriage laws.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such weddings should be officiated at by a Civil registrar.

Please share your views below:

Yes. This should ensure pseudo organisations could not be registered to officiate at weddings.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if nominated officiants had had appropriate training and are officially recognised as capable of carrying out the duties.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, of course nothing which is unlawful should be permitted but the wording must ensure that 'public policy or morality' which changes over time does not create a situation where genuinely but not contemporarily popular belief excludes a nominated officiant.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, just holding an office in an organisation should not entitle a person to officiate at a marriage ceremony. Any person officiating must be properly trained and deemed capable of carrying out the role.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Opening up the opportunity for independent officiants could lead to development of commercial operators in the role which could devalue the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. There must be independent recognition of who is a 'fit and proper' person to officiate at a wedding.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limits f the amounts paid for the attendance of an independent officiant to prevent inappropriate profiteering.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But any such concerns must be forwarded to the General Register Office for appropriate action to be taken.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is crucial.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a danger that without 'prescribed words' marriages could be carried out without appropriate declaration of any intent to keep to the dignity of marriage. Weddings would become casual and meaningless.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. This could lead to couples' arrangements for weddings that do not recognise the dignity of marriage and result in wholly inappropriate ceremonies.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would enable those who for whatever reason are unable to use a place of worship for a religious ceremony to have it included in the civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would give appropriate guidance and probably enable the civil officiant to limit what could become over long religious aspects to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This provision needs to be retained for the benefit of those who would want it.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding ceremonies should be open to the public so that the the current opportunity for anyone to raise an objection on legal grounds to the marriage is able to do so.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to wholly inappropriate locations being used.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Such a venue would prevent the attendance of any person having a legitimate reason to prevent the marriage from attending and stating their case.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding ceremonies should continue to be open to the public.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



If such arrangements are allowed the sanctity of the religious venue would be compromised.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but subject to any regulations about location imposed by the General Registrar for Weddings.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to any regulations about suitable venues being made by the General Registrar for weddings.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The local authority for the civil ceremony should be consulted and make a decision as to whether the venue is appropriate and if that is not possible, reference should be made to the Registrar General's office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These details are important for maintaining historical evidence of people's lives.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses and signatures are essential to prevent false representation and fraud.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation should not be a requirement for a marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Presumption of marriage should never be made. An official ceremony must take place with appropriate legal safeguards.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should prevent forced or inappropriate marriages from taking place for such people.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Registrar General's oversight of arrangements is essential to prevent inappropriate or illegal arrangements to take place.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the remote involvement enables appropriate recognition of the persons involved.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only under current legal requirements.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Only if all legal requirements can be met.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant must always be a recognised and appropriately qualified person.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A time limit should be imposed or some schedule returns will never be made.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It would seem that some of the proposals are acceptable and others are not so blanket agreement to the proposals is not possible.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of fulfilling the current regulations is minimal compared to the costs couples are prepared to spend on lavish celebrations. Legal registration of marriage should not be done on the cheap.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Making the registration of marriage should be possible at an appropriate charge that is not exorbitant.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

All weddings should be carried out with appropriate legal recognition.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities are in general in a suitable position to make decisions about venues and arrangements for civil ceremonies.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

All costs should be reasonable and justifiable in relation to the work time involved and travelling necessary to fulfil the role.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1W-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 12:27:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am responding personally, not on behalf of an organisation.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This area is likely to only apply to a very small minority of couples and therefore not of great significance.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Abolishing this requirement opens up the possibility of more "spur of the moment marriages" which greatly increases the likelihood of people entering into marriage without sufficient consideration and preparation. That in turn increases the likelihood of more failed marriages, which would be painful and damaging in each case.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A minimum of seven days ties in with my answer to question 4 and the logic behind it.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews would increase the likelihood of sham or forced marriages being undetected. There is no substitute for reading body language and the nuances of a situation in person. Remote interviews should therefore not be possible.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is a minefield and is arguably too difficult to define and uphold. It is therefore best left to the nation's laws to define and uphold what is lawful or "contrary to public...morality".



Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be allowed. It would be draconian to be too prescriptive to such organisations.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to them being under the same scrutiny as affiliated officiants.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I question whether an 18 year old has the maturity to officiate a marriage service.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too vague and subjective. An officiant could deem anything dignified or solemn!

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure about this. There is an organisation for every possible belief under the sun, so this requirement could actually mean anything. That said, it isn't for the state to police belief systems, hence neither a yes or no response.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Expressing consent orally in person and in front of witnesses is an important part of the legal and social process of marriage. Those requirements should continue to be essential. There should be clear and prescribed wording (it doesn't have to be particularly lengthy) so as the couple and the witnesses present are clear about the seriousness and significance of the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This gives far too much freedom for a wedding service to be something irreverent or which trivialises the solemn and lifelong implications of what is being vowed. More structure and some minimum constituents to the marriage vows are needed.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That sounds a bit vague. What exactly would a civil ceremony with religious content be? A bit of each to the extent that it is neither one nor the other?!

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Closed ceremonies reduce accountability and increase the likelihood of forced / sham marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I definitely don't agree. Some locations would be irreverent and entirely inappropriate, such as on someone's grave or underwater. The vows should be made with a degree of seriousness, reflecting the lifelong nature of what is being promised, rather than the vows being detracted from by a couple trying to create an event with an unusual headline or attention seeking venture.

Please share your views below:

Yes the law should limit weddings in certain locations. There is a large difference to a bit of fun in fancy dress and a making a lifelong commitment in the form of marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing non-religious organisations to carry out weddings in religious weddings would be disrespectful to the ideologies and beliefs of the religious organisation.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That is too vague, it would allow officiants to approve any location and therefore doesn't actually achieve anything.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree that it the location should be safe and dignified, but it should be more than just safe and dignified, as my answer to question 48 states.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDS-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 12:29:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a safeguard in this requirement, that individuals are known to some extent. It may prevent forced marriage.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

as long as possible to ensure confidence in the decision to marry, and that it is voluntary entered into. Planning all the other aspects of a wedding will surely take a long time anyway. The ceremony itself should have as much weight as the reception and parties.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Just as with doctors' consultations, a physical interview gives more clues as to a person's condition.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

what about if a church is closed due to lockdown?



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

as with the registrar this would be a good safeguard, and I think most clergy would do this to take the opportunity to talk about the sacrament of marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

as above

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

More of a safeguard to have banns published in the church where the wedding will take place. Weddings are a public event, for the scrutiny and well-being of the community

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such organisations have the civil ceremony available to them, and can subsequently have whatever celebration they wish.

My son married in Switzerland; he was officially married at the town hall, and then had another ceremony and reception at his church. This system can operate here without requiring further legislation. It gives a sense of solidity and permanence, whereas any whacky cult or sect can be transitory.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above. But churches which hold to basic teaching consistent with the Church of England should be allowed, as I believe they now are, to have their own officiant. Eg Baptist, Methodist etc

We should not be ashamed to make laws with being a traditionally Christian country whilst being tolerant of other beliefs.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

see above

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It has been demonstrated that marriage and its commitment to faithfulness is the basis for a sound society, so this should be the foundation of decisions like this, and such wording included in the ceremony itself and the preparations beforehand.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some guidance on obligatory words under oath as now to reflect the importance and significance of the ceremony. Not just for those participating but for the benefit of those listening who may be in the same position one day.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Really don't see why 'continuing' professional development' is necessary

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Making these public declarations during the ceremony is important. It expresses publicly and openly that this commitment is not just a question of individual fancy but a serious occasion of vows and promises.

Marriage is already treated too lightly in our country.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

as above. There is plenty of scope to personalise the ceremony without detracting from the seriousness of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

as above

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

strange question

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

again, this is a public ceremony where the congregation are witnesses to the vows made. The fact that these vows may be negated later, does not make them less important. If we take away the seriousness, it will just become another party.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too broad

Please share your views below:

None of the above. This isn't a game, a competition to see who can have the most 'fun' event.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is vital whether or not it's taken up. This is a solemn, societal commitment, a serious basis for raising children in a secure two-parent home. This cannot be stressed enough even though it doesn't always succeed.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED]

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about 2. There have been lots of cancellations during 2020

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses very necessary; this is a public commitment. And a safeguard against forced marriage.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

another strange question. You'll be suggesting they shouldn't have cohabited before the ceremony next (irony)

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I thought this was legally the case anyway. Surely common law marriage is not legal? But you couldn't backdate such a law now.

### Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because consent is essential. People in India are selling their daughters; we don't want that being acceptable.

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

isn't that obvious?

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

not as long as their capacity has been assessed, and there are witnesses.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Zoom weddings?? Maybe. Emergency would have to be well-defined.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

weird question, sounds like gunshot weddings!

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

because easy public access is required

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No because this isn't just for fun. It's a serious and solemn occasion which should be open to the public. If you'd said on the village green, I might agree.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No I don't think it would improve the situation. It is the impression that a wedding should be an extravagantly expensive occasion which inhibits couples. A return to simplicity is what is needed not zany ideas.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of the ceremony should be 'reasonable.' It is the costs of the extras which is prohibitive or perceived to be so.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Church buildings are a cultural asset, and need every penny to help maintain them. Other places are 'businesses.'

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTQ-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 13:04:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement helps to establish the individuals in the setting and culture, reducing the risk of coercion.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum should be longer than 7 days. 10-14 days would ensure that consideration is given to matters raised in the interview.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews are necessarily ineffective at revealing situations of concern. Coercion is hidden.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Prominence must be given, to expose bigamy and to alert family members and friends to possible coercion.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, it should be the officiant who knows and interviewed the couple where possible.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. The banns should be published as widely as possible, to expose bigamy and alert family and friends to possible coercion.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Documentary evidence is difficult, but separate meetings would expose coercion and should therefore be required.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. See previous answer.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the Anglican preliminaries meet the legal requirement.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a religious or faith-based relationship.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No. The Christian church might well become unpopular with the government. But it is not for the government to control marriage. That is for the church.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only religious organisations should have that right.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees must be controlled and small.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The church should issue guidance on how this should be done.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The church must be able to appoint the persons it deems fit.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is bureaucracy.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1b should be reinstated. This is a contract and they should be required to state in public at the marriage that it is in their view legal.  
4 - all of the scheduled actions must be completed.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a specific, religious contract. It is not a pick and mix.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Marriage is a specific type of contract, establish by God.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so long as there is public access.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

There must be public access to allow for protest or witness of objection.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witness is part of a contract.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals



Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1T-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 13:28:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a state recognised by society - residency is appropriate

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes possibly

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

A problem here now if remote interviews are conducted - who else is in the room but not seen?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly online - BUT also physically needs to be a notice somewhere - what happens with electric / cyber attacks in the future. We cannot rely entirely online

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes -Both need to be seen - there must be no impediment

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

NO - why cannot they officiate at religious weddings...several religious orders and smaller groups do not have a registration officer and need to have an official who is trained in the various legal aspects

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

why do you concentrate on the Church of England? There are far greater numbers of clergy in other Christian denominations who can be recognised as officiants

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

possibly

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It therefore has to be an "organisation" with some sort of structure - otherwise anyone belief system can come under this

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

would the officiant be trained?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I wonder what is meant by "contrary to public policy or morality" - as it seems we are in a complete state of flux currently in British society - so that phrase is too vague. Who would decide? Many organisations have beliefs that are deemed unpopular to the wider media..

So NO

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The problem is that "independent" officiants are not part of an organisation and therefore not subject to any checks and balances. Any quack could set up shop as a celebrant which would compromise the status of a wedding in society

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes - the importance of this role cannot be overstated

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Having recent been at a humanist wedding - how can you ensure this? Of course it is their business and to make a living by this - and the officiants beliefs did to seem to come into it - solely what the partners wanted

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

why not?

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

absolutely - dignity and solemnity is essential - otherwise it just becomes something fun to do for a day.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely if we want certainty and simplicity, consistency and solemnity - we must have oral acquiescence in the ceremony that is witnessed by society. It must be said that there is no impediment from each participant as that is a legal requirement - why not include that to indicate the importance of these words - not just to include prior to the ceremony

No 2 No - this is not the marriage proposal that can be done anywhere with a bit of creative fun - this is the legal and binding ceremony to be witnessed. (otherwise we could have someone saying yes by flying a flag - or a message behind a 'plane etc)

The ceremony itself MUST have an oral expression of consent - (unless deaf dumb etc)

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officials can be corrupted - form and ceremony cannot be solely chosen by the parties - there have to be safeguards - otherwise this becomes a parody

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems odd that we have not allowed readings from scriptures but allowed other poems and prose at a civil ceremony

Please share your views below:

What is meant by "religious content" ? Who defines this?

Why not have the appropriate scriptures for that faith being allowed to be said or sung or played - for people of faith there is no divide between any parts of their lives.

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors is a great safeguard against forced marriage etc - it is a public institution and not an entirely private matter, and recognised by society

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

not anywhere if we want it dignified and solemn

Please share your views below:

Outdoor venues need to be "set aside", possible set aside boats

NOT in the air or in the water etc

NOT in private homes like the USA model

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

future researchers into family history may not be able to read Welsh - therefore in both languages is important

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

option yes - but still needs a hard copy somewhere

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

co habitation is not marriage

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

again there could be coercion otherwise

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing should be done remotely

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

not if a wedding is to be taken seriously

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

this means that there cannot be an "open doors" policy and it becomes private again

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

all this means folks with money can overwhelm the lives of others with their requests and desires

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF17-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 13:47:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please note that this could possibly make coerced or forced marriages occur more quickly and easily.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please note that dubious marriages e.g. forced marriages could therefore be conducted much more quickly with less time to intervene on behalf of the coerced party.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Please note: if interviews take place remotely, it may not be easy to arrange in-person interviews to prevent sham or forced marriages etc. if this is not easily discernible remotely and if the interviewer / key interviewee wish to simply process the marriage without a further obstacle or an in-person interview.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please note: one or both of the couples may not always be aware of the risk of harm or may diminish the possibility of this occurring and therefore consent to an online display, when in fact this could lead to a risk of harm e.g. extended family finding out and disapproving and causing harm.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this person is a civil registrar or religious officiant only.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sometimes a man or woman may be from these nations and this could be a great inconvenience to remove this provision.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We do not know what the future holds, including war - do not repeal this.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The law can be left as it is.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Clergy should be able to do this if having a doubt as to the legality of the marriage etc. or if coercion is involved.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

If people of religious faith desire Anglican preliminaries, this freedom should be permitted them.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches use and need civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person e.g. due to few weddings and less familiarity with legal requirements or because it is impractical due to its size.

The Law Commission desires that “the ceremony that is meaningful to the couple should be recognised by law”. Churches that do not have an authorised person can do this at the moment, by having a civil registrar to register the marriage. If this is not allowed anymore, many may require a civil ceremony separate to their church wedding.

Many churches do not have a person authorised to conduct weddings. They can conduct weddings at the moment (using a civil registrar) but will not be able to under the proposals unless they appoint an authorised person, which may be impractical or not possible in all cases.

This idea poses a danger of some churches falling foul of weddings law, as they are required to take responsibility for unfamiliar legalities in order to hold a religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please note: all manner of organisations could end up claiming the right to have officiants, even where their worldview could undermine marriage.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Climate change organisations, for example, or charitable enterprises that have nothing to do with religious/philosophical belief

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should then be confirmed that this group does not hold to polygamous practices where this might be suspected.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No - this is a VERY dangerous prospect that goes against freedom of conscience and religion. Saying "contrary to public policy or morality" is too subjective and would risk those with unpopular but legal beliefs being excluded from nominating officiants (e.g. those politely opposed to same-sex marriage) just because it goes against "public policy" (which is not always the same as morality). Less controversial criteria might be organisations promoting purposes that support terrorism or the violent overthrow of democracy.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants. Note: it may be very difficult for this to be upheld - independent officiants have been present at weddings e.g. in a sadomasochistic dungeon.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants. Please note: organisations may approve of such people even if not fulfilling duties or responsibilities adequately.

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see note on Q29 - disagree with independent officiants



## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Without the foundation of the short prescribed words, the wedding ceremony can be made fairly meaningless. No words could end up being said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind, but marriage should be based on solemn vows! This could also make coercive marriages more easy. Without these words, marriage might also be treated in a much more casual and not genuine manner. Allowing wholly personalised wedding ceremonies without any legally-required words would send the message that marriage is an entirely private matter when it is also a matter of public and societal concern.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A legal wedding ceremony should reflect the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making rather than being personalised and customised in a way that could trivialise marriage.

Non-legally binding ceremonies can already be as personalised as people want, including one that occurred in a sadomasochism dungeon - this does not reflect the seriousness of marriage. Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs, which is not upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective and may not prevent couples finding an officiant to agree to even the most outlandish wishes that completely degrade marriage.

The possibility of fully-tailored wedding ceremonies will encourage commercialisation. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries.

If people can entirely customise their own weddings, they might blend together different elements from faith ceremonies inappropriately, effectively making a parody of those ceremonies. This could be highly offensive to people of those faiths! This must by all means not occur.

### Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Saying 'there should be no legal limitations on who can have those types of weddings' could be problematic if people of those faiths are required to marry people against their conscience e.g. same-sex couples.

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Just note that the tenets of faiths should not be muddled within ceremonies in a way that could be a parody or misrepresenting those faiths.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be freedom to take both, especially if no authorised person is able to legitimise the marriage in a religious setting. If you look at the consultation, churches where no civil registrar would be enabled to conduct the wedding anymore, might need members to have a civil ceremony as well as a religious one if so desired.

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement is a valuable aspect that shows that marriage is of societal and public importance, as indeed it is, and not just a private issue.

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public can help to protect against forced marriage and bigamy, for example, and give easier access where this needs to be prevented.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No safeguards have been mentioned that will prevent unsuitable venues being used, and so the dignity of the ceremonies might not be guaranteed.

The consultation does not outline in details how venues will be verified as being 'dignified' and 'safe' and what will constitute venues as being 'dignified' and 'safe'. Venues should enable weddings to be a solemn affair. The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings "in the air", suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly. Unofficial weddings have been conducted e.g. in a sadomasochism dungeon and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en. Such settings clearly trivialise marriage, and the law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies. This could be very demeaning, insulting, and degrading for the institution of marriage.

Please share your views below:

This could run the risk of locations being used that degrade the institution of marriage and make it a more private and even coerced affair e.g. if conducted in private homes.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be recognised as of public and societal interest and not confined to private guests only; this could run the risk of forced marriages or bigamy occurring.

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see previous answer (Q29) against independent officiants - these should not be enabled to decide; it could lead to marriage being degraded if due to commercialisation they agree to venues that are not solemn and dignified.

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see previous answer (Q29) against independent officiants; they may not all be trusted to agree to only safe and dignified venues; this could be interpreted very broadly.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please see previous answer (Q29) against independent officiants.

### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As it is optional, it may have limited impact.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should not come at the expense of possibly fraudulent 'marriages' taking place e.g. falsified signatures.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer to Q29.

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer to Q29.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Please note that if all churches had to get an authorised person if a civil registrar could no longer help out, that could have an impact on churches.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFW8-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 14:23:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No privacy request

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in a conventional Church of England wedding ceremony.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I only wanted a 'normal' church wedding. I knew it would be legally recognised.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no point in having a wedding that is not legally binding. It would be a charade and mock genuine marriage. The only place for mock weddings is for drama e.g. plays, films, stage shows where the couple get married every performance and TV programmes. I am however very concerned about non-legally binding Islamic religious marriages. These should be totally illegal and those that promote them prosecuted.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would not even consider a marriage that is not legally recognised. However, I do understand what you are referring to are related to those that follow the Islamic faith in religious ceremonies that are not legally recognised. Singapore is the best, where every couple first get married at the Registration of Marriages (ROM) for the legal wedding, then have any additional ceremonies in their Mosque, Church or Temple.

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I do not see the point of Question 2. Marriage is a serious step and the current law, although in some need of tidying up does not need wholesale reform that mutilates the meaning of marriage. Neither do I see why a wedding would not be meaningful or personal because of the current legal barriers. These legal barriers were put into place for a good reason.

I am not suggesting that we should treat these like the US Constitution which is a fixed absolute document. However, just because many of our marriage laws date back to 1836 with additions in 1949 is not a pretext to change the character of marriage.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am skeptical about aspects of the covid 19 pandemic. As an avid watcher of China news from independent sources, I was aware of covid 19 before it was designated. I had seen what was happening in Wuhan, China that spread to the rest of the world. I have two points about covid 19:

1/ The death rate data is too crude to be meaningful. The mere presence of covid 19 means the death is registered as a covid death. What is missing is the ages of those that have died, if they had significant long term conditions that had weakened their health and CONTRIBUTED to their death.

2/ Is the covid 19 testing recording the VIRAL LOAD. This is important because some testing methods repeatedly amplify the covid 19 to obtain a reading. If this is done too many times e.g. 30 the viral load is insufficient to cause the disease.

Covid 19 is certainly a real disease, but hardly different from SARS and MERS. There is effective treatment available so I feel that the world has to learn to live with the disease until an effective NON LOCKDOWN approach is found to manage covid 19

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious step and cannot be done on a whim. 7 days' notice is quite reasonable.

#### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, I feel that interview should be done BEFORE the notice period starts. Otherwise, the in-person interview would give the couple very little time to make a life-changing decision.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Here I suggest at least a 28 days time period. Ideally, the time period should be longer rather than shorter. In practice, most weddings are planned many months in advance. It is better to make the couple think carefully about what they are doing e.g. getting married, so they do not rush their decision.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The only safe way is in-person interviews. There should also be a translator present if required. I would also suggest that a video and audio recording is made of the interview. When any doubt about marriage, for sham or forced marriage then the interviewer should be able to suspend their approval and tell the parties that another interview will be needed after they have conducted enquires. Also, the couple is barred from approaching another place to be married.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this makes sense because they are both relevant nationals and exempt from immigration control.



Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public declaration of intention to form a lifelong permanent relationship. As such the names of the couple should be publicly displayed. I would suggest the risk of harm clause should be based on substantial evidence of risk. Therefore the presumption should be not to grant non-public status unless the risk of harm is based on evidence e.g. cross-cultural marriage that is opposed.

The play "Romeo and Juliet" portrays a perfect case of where harm was intended. However, it also questions the wisdom of Friar Lawrence in rushing their wedding. At the end of the play, the prince does partly blame him for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. This play does indeed raise good questions about a marriage where there is opposition, lawful or unlawful.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that once a schedule is obtained, then 12 months is quite sufficient for the couple to get married or change their minds to delay or go in different ways. However, I do oppose your proposed scheme and think the current arrangement is working well.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It does appear to be reasonable for a couple to change their minds about who is to marry them and where. However, I still think the current system of linking marriage to particular locations e.g. National Trust property, church, or synagogue is better than the officiant scheme you are proposing.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with the whole officiant approach. Marriage is special so should be limited to 'special' places to show that it is a solemn commitment. Currently, I believe that another minister or registrar can step in to replace the registrar/minister that is not available.

Please share your views below:

I have no view on this question. However, I do oppose your proposed scheme and think the current arrangement is working well.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage banns are traditional and tell the world that a wedding is to take place. It gives people the right (apart from special weddings such as those between royals) to attend the ceremony. A wedding is a public celebration that is for the community to witness, even if the wedding celebrations are only for invited guests. The Church of England is a very special organisation, and should keep its privileges.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I oppose the removal of old legislation even if it appears to be redundant. However, I do oppose your proposed scheme and think the current arrangement is working well.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The publishing of banns of marriage is important. Were it only in the church to be used for the ceremony, the news of an expected marriage would not spread around the parish if their several churches.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think the current system where the registrar of marriages is responsible for checking the documentation is a good approach. However, yes, I do think that if they want more reassurance, they should be able to call for more evidence.

I also consider that the minister should meet the couple separately before banns are published.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

The need for separate declarations would be an additional safeguard. So yes, they should be required.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

I am in favour of the Church of England and Church of Wales keeping their current arrangements. Some time ago I lived in a country where all weddings were preceded by civil preliminaries. Couples were married in a civil ceremony first then any additional services in a mosque, temple or church followed the legal marriage. I do promote the Singapore model later in this consultation, but only to prevent marriage ceremonies from being devalued to theme park 'fun' experiences.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am uneasy at the idea of officiants replacing registrars. It is changing the role because a registrar can only conduct a ceremony in a designated place, but an officiant is not limited to designated places.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officers are by definition non-faith and therefore restricted to civil marriages.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes total sense. Why should more be needed?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to be reasonable provided it does not undermine the role of the clergy that currently conduct weddings.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I still feel that a registrar should be present at weddings. This idea of these officiants will widen the scope of those conducting services and could undermine standards. Quality and consistency should be maintained.

I am totally against the idea of non-religious officiants. Just imagine that the fictional "friends of aliens" wanted to conduct an 'alien wedding' ceremony. Here I appreciate that an 'alien wedding' may not be allowed on decent grounds and that this would make marriage little more than a theatrical show, but my main point is this would make a mockery of marriage.

There is nothing wrong if this imaginary couple went to a registry office for a normal 'decent' civil ceremony and then have their weird alien ceremony in their fictional "friends of aliens" venue!

What I have just described is the law in Singapore where every marriage is carried out at the Registration of Marriage then couples can choose a faith ceremony afterward. For the UK a non-faith ceremony would not be the official marriage but the couple could organise whatever they want afterward!

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am totally against the idea of non-religious officiants. Just imagine that the fictional "friends of aliens" wanted to conduct an 'alien wedding' ceremony. Here I appreciate that an 'alien wedding' may not be allowed on decent grounds because dressing up like aliens would make marriage into a theatre show but my main point is this would make a mockery of marriage.

There is nothing wrong if this imaginary couple went to a registry office for a normal 'decent' civil ceremony and then have their weird alien ceremony in their fictional "friends of aliens" venue!

What I have just described is the law in Singapore where every marriage is carried out at the Registration of Marriage then couples can choose a faith ceremony afterward.

Marriage is not a performance where the groom is dressed as prince charming and the bride as Cinderella in her ball gown, Disney style. It is OK to have Disney characters at the wedding, but not as part of the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

This is a difficult question because I totally reject that a non-religious belief organisation should be able to connect weddings. That aside, there are many frivolous organisations such as the classic "flat earth society" which exist just for fun. My main concern is with more serious organisations such as Humanists who really want to be considered a non-theistic faith. The same applies to Atheists, Mother Earth worshippers, Druids, and Climate Change believers.

The point is where does one start and stop with non-religious belief organisations.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too low for religious organisations. I feel that it would be better to carry on with the registrar supervising the leader e.g. pastor conducting the marriage.

I totally object to non-religious organisations being given the opportunity to appoint an officiant. Members of non-religious organisations can have a civil wedding at a registry office and then do whatever they want for their 'non-religious' ceremony. I say this because this part is NOT the wedding.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is a dangerous question. Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. The answer is a resounding NO to this question. It should not be the government that prevents the 'officiant' or 'registrar' from being appointed but the government to prove that the 'officiant' or 'registrar' was acting in an unlawful, contrary to public policy or offending morality. I can foresee that Pentecostal and Evangelical churches could easily be banned from appointing officiants because they will not marry same-sex couples. This situation has already occurred in a European country. The clergy would not marry same-sex couples, so their government preventing them from holding any weddings at all! What is lawful or unlawful can easily change, public policy can easily change and morality is very fluid so highly changeable. My point is the last three conditions give the government too much power when deciding who can conduct weddings based on their organisation.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. However, to answer your question, I feel that if the change to officiants is made, then it total sense to nominate by both office held and as individuals. I also see that when someone leaves an office, as opposed to an 'individual' personal appointment as an officiant, the question arises as to if they keep their officiant status? This could potentially create two different classes of officiants.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. However, it does seem sensible to maintain the register at the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. I assume that the state will continue to civil provide weddings if the officiant scheme is adopted. To these will be added religious officiants e.g. mosque, temple, or church. Therefore I fail to see the need for independent officiants. Couples have the choice of a civil ceremony or a religious ceremony. What additional role could independent officiants play? I see no need to add confusion to create a new 'professional' officiant, separate from those in the registry of marriage places for wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. However, I broadly agree with the need for an officiant to be "fit and proper persons". This would only be valid on appointment and not thereafter because a person can be 'fit and proper' to begin with and then become 'unfit and improper' over a period of time. It is unfair for any organisation to keep checking on staff. The BBC certainly did not check Jimmy Savile et al and almost any organisation can have a 'good' person with a dark secret in their midst.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. What you list above is common sense if independent officiants are created. I have some additional points. I think that 21 should be the minimum age, not 18. Secondly, the words "fit and proper" is too vague and imprecise, so open to interpretation. I can foresee a situation where Christians are not seen as "fit and proper" persons because the criteria used to determine what is fit and proper would be written by Stonewall et al including, transgender pressure groups, so include the marriage of same-sex couples and transgender people. What I am saying is not nonsense. In my lifetime, particularly since the 1997 Labour government, drastic social changes have taken place. For the avoidance of doubt, the new 1997 government incorporated rather than caused these changes. Generally, prior to this governments held it was their moral duty to uphold traditional, which are really biblical-based values.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. This is an odd question, but I will respond. Currently, ministers in the Church of England (CoE) are paid a fee for conducting a wedding, but this is really an 'overtime' payment for extra work. I interpret the situation you set out as profiting from 'star' status like a show business star performer. My response is a clear "no" to this rule because it dealing with a hypothetical situation that does not currently exist. Those who marry couples should only do so as part of their role or office that they hold. It is not right for couples to be able to choose their minister or in your terms officiant because marriage is NOT a show, but a very serious step.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. This is legal mumbo jumbo. It is wrong to create independent officiants because this will encourage a "Britain's got talent" mentality. Here I do not criticise the show, which can be good! What I mean is conducting weddings will become a stage act, creating celebrity officiants. All this would do is devalue marriage to that of the final act of "Annie Get Your Gun" double wedding. Great musical and I love to watch fictional weddings, my favorite being the 1968 "Romeo and Juliet" Franco Zeffirelli film. My point is weddings are not 'staged' events but have already become so even under current arrangements. This will only get worse if your proposal is accepted.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. For reasons of simplicity, it may be easier for a church to have its ministers as independent officiants than those tied to their organisation or due to their office. The end result would be the same. However, I am strongly against the idea of independent officiants because they are unnecessary.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. Now, I 110% agree with this proposal. Now, in my view, it needs to go a lot further to clarify what the words "uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage" mean. Imagine if a nudist club thought that given they are nudists, what is wrong with a nudist wedding provided everyone involved consents to it happening. In this instant, the current law forbids such, but would this still be the case under the proposed arrangements? To those nudists involved it would be dignified and solemn. If the officiant was one of their members, they would also regard it as dignified and solemn. My point is that the words solemn and dignified need very careful clarification to avoid my hypothetical nudist wedding situation. In more practical terms this would apply to places, activities, and dress standards (or lack of it). There must be crystal clear rules to define what is and what is not acceptable to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. Yes, I do agree that the General Register Offices should issue guidance to all officiants on how weddings should be conducted. In Question 35 I set out my argument about the topic of what this should consist of. My main point is the guidance has to be comprehensive, detailed, and cover all eventualities. There should also be scope for adding and deleting guidance based on new developments.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. Yes, the organisation that nominated them is their first line of quality control. I would add that any person unhappy with the ceremony should be able to directly raise any issues. This does not mean every minor point is a failure or frivolous or vexatious complaints should be held against the officiant. Not everything that goes wrong at a wedding is the fault of the minister, registrar and if your proposal is taken forward, the officiant.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. Yes, there has to be controls under your proposed arrangements. However, I can foresee situations where the General Register Office needs a legal check on its authority. What if the General Register Office decided that every officiant had to conduct same-sex weddings and banned all Christian officiants from performing weddings?

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. Yes, there has to be controls under your proposed arrangements. However, I can foresee situations where the General Register Office needs a legal check on its authority. What if the General Register Office decided that every officiant had to conduct same-sex weddings and banned all Christian officiants from performing weddings?

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. However, I think that 21 years of age is a better minimum. One more point, officiants should have the option to either pause or resign their status. Let me explain. It should be possible for someone to voluntarily pause their status and reactivate it later, subject to updating their practice. Also, it should be possible for someone to resign and permanently end their officiant status.

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Firstly, I am against the notion of 'officiants' and support the current registrars. Please look at Question 40 for the full answer that covers this point. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) has become a millstone around the neck of many people in the professions and vocations e.g. nursing. CPD has degenerated into a 'tick box' exercise. CPD does not guarantee the quality of service and performance. If your proposal is modest and minimal then why use the term CPD? It will also increase the cost of holding weddings because of the time, materials, and 'evidence' gathering. By the way, I understand CPD and have seen it at work in different workplaces and professions. It is not the ideal solution to every profession and situation. There are

better ways to maintain and raise professional and vocational standards that avoid the 'tick box' approach. In general, this would lead to overregulation and higher costs for no gain in quality and consistency.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This reform will obliterate any standard form of the marriage ceremony. At least something remained of Hiroshima after the air burst atomic bomb on 06/08/1945 but NOTHING will remain of a standard form of the marriage ceremony in this proposal. Signing a schedule of marriage is quite insufficient because they may be married online! Traditional words are also legally required words in both religious and civil ceremonies. What these words do is emphasise the solemnity of marriage, so are important. In the current ceremony, the minister or registrar can provide a wide degree of personalisation to suit the couple, so there is no need to abolish the current approach. Generally, what I am saying is a wedding is NOT a showbiz event but a public declaration that they understand the seriousness of marriage. A wedding also asks others to support them, particularly family members to stay together. This is in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer service.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, a wedding should have a standard form to be legally acceptable. I feel that a wedding is a very serious commitment, and is a public demonstration to wider society that they have accepted the joys and sorrows of being joined and becoming one flesh. Fantasy weddings already exist and I have nothing against them provided they are TOTALLY SEPARATED from real-world weddings. Some of my favourite weddings are from Japanese anime shows where wonderful fantasy elements add to the magic of the wedding. Makoto from Kannon is the saddest wedding, but I digress from my main point. The wedding service has to be constrained to the required standards to prevent Alice in Wonderland situations becoming the new 'norm'. In practical terms, it would drastically add to already astronomically high cost of weddings. God intended marriage to be simple and serious and not a Disneyland fantasy show. There was originally no marriage ceremony but coming together after a time of betrothal.

### Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All these groups are Judeo Christian and have very firm traditions based on the bible. Jews do not include the New Testament, but all the traditions followed by all groups come from the Old Testament. A religious wedding is highly symbolic in both words and actions. It is a PUBLIC event for the whole community to witness God joining together a MAN and a WOMAN to become one flesh. God commands them to be fruitful and multiply. A wedding service is not an opportunity for individuality and showing off, although this can be a problem. A religious wedding is a declaration before God to the whole world that the couple has accepted the blessed state of matrimony. My point is the formalities of marriage have to be maintained to a wedding service meaning. Also, giving this freedom would encourage rebellion in the LBGTQ+ friendly parts of some denominations to change the wedding service to suit their radical ideology.

### Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a great divide between a civil and religious wedding ceremony. Every couple is free to choose either type of wedding ceremony. I can see no gain in combining the religious and civil elements. There is also the risk that by doing so, it would give a government the opportunity to outlaw religious weddings if e.g. churches and Syngogues refused to marry same-sex couples. The government could simply say that you can still get married with some (watered down) religious ceremony.

Please share your views below:

I set out my views in Question 45. It is not just a matter of "religious" content but the whole concept of a religious wedding ceremony. A religious wedding is a faith-based ceremony from its roots. Every point of the ceremony has a faith-based reason for inclusion. There are differences between the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant wedding services, but all are totally expressions of faith. My point is that it is impossible to combine a secular and religious wedding ceremony.

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I support the Singapore model IF this is the only way to get married. Most couples only have a civil ceremony at the Registration of Marriage building. However, those who have faith then hold an additional service to fulfill their faith-based obedience to their God or gods. Hence, I say NO to this proposal because it works well because many couples only have a 'plain' civil ceremony without special wedding clothes and save the 'special' clothes e.g. bridal dress for the religious service. There is nothing in the bible to say that having a civil and religious service is wrong. It meets the requirements of God and Ceasar!

For the avoidance of doubt, I support the current system and reject the proposals by the Law Commission. It is only in the context of mixing faith and civil wedding ceremonies where I support the Singapore solution.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a good reason for requiring that doors are open for weddings. Historically forced weddings are not new, and those that object have had to be able to enter the church to raise their objection to a marriage. Forced marriage is a major problem today that is in my opinion being under-reported due to political correctness and fear of being branded as a racist! In other words, the bride or groom must be free to walk out of their own wedding service. It has happened before in real life, not just in fictional dramas. The only weddings that should be excluded are state events such as royal weddings where the constitutional protocol demands 'ranking' of attendees. I also feel that people should not view marriage as a private matter. In one sense it is a private decision between a man and woman, plus family discouragement or encouragement. However, everyone is entitled to witness their wedding ceremony because marriage is a vow [even if not verbally stated] before God to be faithful to each other. God grants blessing on the marriage between a man and a woman. The union of the couple is a public event.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are a solemn occasion and need a fittingly solemn location. I am in favour of the current wider range of officially registered places for marriages such as the National Trust house I visited just prior to wedding taking place. It was a dignified place for a marriage to take place. However, the couple SHOULD NOT be able to choose wherever they want. The law is quite flexible about the places that can apply for a license to be places where marriages can be performed. All of these are dignified. There are some problems for churches that do not own their own premise that would benefit from a limited revision of the current law. What I am saying is a review where there are problems such as the one I have just mentioned, but not extending the type of venues that can apply to hold weddings. Some control is needed otherwise in the words of the famous song "anything goes".

Please share your views below:

My answer to this question is "ALL OF THE ABOVE". I will discuss the unsuitability of the first three, then in a private home last. The first three "outdoors", "on inland waters such as lakes or rivers and "in the air", are not dignified places for couples to get married. Instead, they are places for couples to indulge in their interests. I can imagine a wedding of two rock climbers on a rock climbing route. It would not be dignified because climbing equipment is for a sport, not getting married in. I could say the same about skydivers being married in the air, which is allowed in some countries. Yes, it may be more fun for the participants but marriage is a serious commitment and should not be made into a spectacle to make a memorable video of. In any case, a mock wedding is possible in these places or anywhere else for that matter. Recall that in Singapore couples MUST marry at the Registration of Marriages first, then any other ceremony can take place afterward. This is why I object to all four on your list. Private homes are out, because the public need access. This is already an issue with some wedding venues.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All venues need to be publicly accessible, royal weddings excepted because they are covered in TV so are accessible. Recall that I have argued that forced marriages are not a new phenomenon. This is why the banns of marriage are read, and different residency requirements are in place to prevent forced marriage. Forced marriage did not start with the Asian community but they are currently the main source of the problem. More needs to be done to protect Asian girls from such exploitation in the UK. Keeping doors open means the public can observe such weddings by preventing 'behind closed doors' marriages. For private property, access is already a problem. The National Trust House could not allow me to watch the wedding that was shortly going to take place. Was this a forced wedding? I have no idea because the doors of the house were shut to visitors and only open to the bride, groom, and wedding guests. OK, it was unlikely to be a forced wedding, given its high cost, but it was behind closed doors.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious belief places of worship should be protected from access from both civil weddings and non-religious belief weddings. Imagine if a coven of witches was allowed to use a Christian church for a Wiccan wedding service. Wicca is a real faith and really does have a wedding ritual. Satanic symbols would be placed in a Christian church, satanic rituals used including curses on Christianity. OK, this is an extreme example but if the culture of 'rights' is followed through to its conclusion, non-religious belief groups will demand access to churches for their weddings. Some of what I have speculated about is already about to happen in other 'liberal' countries where if a church will not allow same-sex weddings, it has prevented them from holding weddings for heterosexual couples. A church is a holy place, even if does not have the same significance as the Temple of the Lord in bible times.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The primary responsibility for where a wedding can take place should be clearly set out in crystal clear lists of approved and non-approved locations. The officiant's role is to make sure the choice of the couple getting married is firstly legally allowed, then if there is a grey area, in consultation with the Register of Marriage office. It must not be left to the officiant because then a wider and wider range of places to get married will occur through inconsistent application of the rules. By the time action, official action is taken, the range of wedding venues will be so established only the most unsuitable will be taken off the list. This is called pushing the limits and rarely does any official body step in to fully enforce the law. Then the grey areas because greater and greater until it's impossible to return to the original standard.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consider my statement "winter walking is quite safe in the Scottish mountains". Safe here is too vague and lacks clarity and certainty. It all depends on who is doing the walking, how well they are trained and equipped, and an element of luck! Say the wedding was on the top of Ben Nevis in winter. Would it be safe for the officiant, couple, and witnesses? Yes if they were all climbers and walkers used to winter conditions but lethal for everybody else! Now the setting would not be dignified standing in below freezing point temperatures, probably low visibility, and at least a three-hour trek up and back after the ceremony. What I have suggested is a mad idea, but shows that the words "safe" and "dignified" are very subjective. This issue needs clarity and stringent safeguards.

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is the role of Parliament to clearly set the rules for the definitions of "safe" and "dignified", not the General Register Office. Hear me out on this. Too often Parliament has allowed too much scope for other organisations to interpret the law. The General Register Office may be reliable and do its duty, but is not designed to decide the definitions of "safe" and "dignified". A lot of thought needs to go into defining these terms so it is not vague or open to interpretation. Ideas change over time, so will the ideas behind the definitions of "safe" and "dignified" which Parliament should update. My point is a body such as the General Register Office should not have the delegated responsibility for deciding what Parliament intends. Parliament should set the standard for the General Register Office to apply.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, for wedding venues that are indeed "safe" and "dignified" such as a hotel or National Trust house there is no reason why they cannot be pre-approved. My point is that this is how the current system works. So in my view, the old maxim "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" should prevail.

Please share your views below:

Like now, a "safe" and "dignified" wedding venue should be able to apply for pre-approval to the General Register Office. Once they have inspected the venue then it should be added to a list kept by the General Register Office and open for couples and officials to view.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided this is the current requirement of a Church of England wedding certificate.

Consultation Question 55:



No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that documents should be bilingual for clarity. This would apply to all languages other than English. The officiant or minister should be able to accurately write in both languages and indeed, conduct ceremonies in both languages.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration is an invitation to hacking, fraud and worse. I strongly feel that marriage records should always remain in paper form using the special ink and paper that lasts a lot longer than a human lifetime.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided it meets the current requirements of the law and nothing is omitted.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, however, I am not familiar with the current legal situation. However, it is evident that mistakes cannot be tolerated in the legal aspects of marriage documentation. That said if there is a way to correct genuine errors due to unforeseen circumstances without performing another marriage ceremony then so be it.

My point is the requirements of the law should be kept and exceptions can only be allowed with good reason. For example, if the bride fainted after her wedding then she cannot sign. I am less tolerant about the case of the missing witness as if any doubt more witnesses should be present at the ceremony. My golden rule would be if there is an error, something suspicious has occurred until a rational, legally standing explanation can be given.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the law must not allow a non-qualifying ceremony to be registered as a legal marriage. I am troubled about religious-only ceremonies. Let me explain. In the Singapore system, every couple has to marry under civil marriage at the Registration of Marriages (ROM) building. Singapore is a small island so one ROM location is sufficient. Then every Christian, Islamic and Tamil wedding is a religious-only ceremony. Here in the UK I feel that religious-only ceremonies should be unlawful. I know this mainly impacts the Muslim community. Every marriage ceremony conducted should be a FULL LEGAL UK MARRIAGE. This may appear to be harsh toward any community, whatever their race, religion, or colour but this is a point of principle. Currently, many Christian marriage ceremonies are conducted with a registrar present to qualify the marriage. I am sure the same is true for those married in a temple, mosque, or synagogue. There is one law for everybody and no place for conducting a non-qualifying ceremony apart from countries like Singapore that operate under a different system.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, all depends on why they have not cohabited for any period after its celebration. During wartime e.g. WW1 and WW2 many such marriages were conducted and were fully accepted. There can be reasons why a couple is separated which are fully valid reasons for full acceptance. However, in general, cohabitation is the purpose of marriage so non-cohabitation raises a giant red flag that something is wrong. I am not a lawyer familiar with the law of marriage but will offer my views. If a man loves a woman and a woman loves a man they will want to cohabit. This may not necessarily include the immediate 'normal' sexual relationship to consummate their marriage. However, it does mean sleeping and living together as man and wife.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Mere cohabitation is insufficient to establish a marriage. Here I am not taking a moral viewpoint that living together is immoral. I am saying that marriage requires documentation before the ceremony, a ceremony, and the signing of legal documents after the service. I understand that there can be difficulty to determine cases when asylum seekers and refugees are involved. For example, the USA uses DNA to check if accompanied children really belong to

their claimed parents.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, forced marriage is a major problem and often girls are trapped in another country with different laws to the UK before they are brought to the UK. A person who claims a lack of consent should not be time limited.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, an officiant (under your proposals) must be totally honest and upright. This is why I prefer the current system because the risk of this happening is almost zero. Registrars know their duties and ministers of the Church of England know what to do. The proposed officiant's method will inevitably lead to abuse and problems.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No comments apart from the system has to be flexible to respond when the couple needs expediting a faster service when required or to adapt to difficult circumstances.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, this may be an emergency. However, the legal formalities need to be completed in double fast time. It will not be a method that will be used unless extreme circumstances are involved.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not keen on the idea of a schedule issued by registration officers replacing the current system.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am not keen on the new idea of marriage schedules. However, I think that 12 months is a good period.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am not keen on the new idea of marriage schedules. However, I think that 12 months is a good period.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with the whole idea of remote signings. It is possible that a national emergency could occur, but I am suspicious of government intentions. The covid 19 crisis has been abused by many countries to impose new forms of control and suspension of liberties. Hence my empathic NO to points 1, 2, 3, and 4. Online weddings via a zoom like application are an abomination. All matters dealing with marriage should be in person, not online.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a case of not allowing a crisis to go to waste. In other words, I have no trust in the government based on what has happened with covid 19, earlier terrorist threats e.g. IRA and other situations. Emergency provisions are should only be available in a true emergency and even then lightly used.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided the hospital can provide sufficient proof. This is not difficult to obtain from medical records.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Weddings at sea are unnecessary for near territorial waters. This is an extension of the locations a wedding can take place.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Weddings at sea are unnecessary for international waters. This is an extension of the locations a wedding can take place.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. Weddings at sea are unnecessary for international waters. This is an extension of the locations a wedding can take place.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Weddings at sea are unnecessary for international waters. This is an extension of the locations a wedding can take place.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. This is an extension of the locations a wedding can take place. Ships captains and deck officers did not routinely marry people in the past. The place for planned weddings is on dry land, not a glamorous cruise ship holiday.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for independent officiants, so no need for weddings on cruise ships. Other counties can continue to offer them, but they change the whole point of a wedding from a solemn ceremony to a showbiz experience. That is the problem with your whole proposal, it transforms marriage into something like an 'experience day' driving a supercar or balloon trip. God created marriage to be sacred and special, not a 'Disney' prince/princess experience. The point of marriage is it's solemn and intended to be so.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for independent officiants, so no need for weddings on cruise ships. Other counties can continue to offer them, but they change the whole point of a wedding from a solemn ceremony to a showbiz experience. That is the problem with your whole proposal, it transforms marriage into something like an 'experience day' driving a supercar or balloon trip. God created marriage to be sacred and special, not a 'Disney' prince/princess experience. The point of marriage is it's solemn and intended to be so.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There is no need for independent officiants, so no need for weddings of any variety on cruise ships. Other counties can continue to offer them, but they change the whole point of a wedding from a solemn ceremony to a showbiz experience. That is the problem with your whole proposal, it transforms marriage into something like an 'experience day' driving a supercar or balloon trip. God created marriage to be sacred and special, not a 'Disney' prince/princess experience. The point of marriage is it's solemn and intended to be so.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for independent officiants, so no need for weddings on cruise ships. Other counties can continue to offer them, but they change the whole point of a wedding from a solemn ceremony to a showbiz experience. That is the problem with your whole proposal, it transforms marriage into something like an 'experience day' driving a supercar or balloon trip. God created marriage to be sacred and special, not a 'Disney' prince/princess experience. The point of marriage is it's solemn and intended to be so.

This is an administrative point.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, a standard fee for everyone

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

(2) as these are special cases that must show compassion

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I support the current registrar scheme for civil weddings. There is no need for officiants to be created! In fact, I sometimes, but not always think the Singapore model is the best where every couple has to firstly marry at a civil ceremony then have a faith or other type of ceremony afterward. Certainly, many couples do not want the expense of hiring a 'posh' wedding venue and are quite happy with the existing registry office facilities.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This safe and dignified proposal is ridiculous. What is wrong with the current system that is very flexible with licensed venues such as historic houses and exclusive hotels for those who want a different setting. We already have safe and dignified venues for weddings to be conducted. What you are proposing would merely add cost and discourage marriage. In fact, most of the new freedoms in marriage ceremonies you are proposing would massively increase the cost of getting married. To my mind, what is needed is COST REDUCTIONS to prevent competition for the 'grandest wedding'.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to pre-approval, as per the existing system where licensed wedding venues are available for civil weddings. No to any additional cost.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The cost should be the same for all weddings apart from a reduced fee where compassion is needed e.g. very ill patient getting married.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, there is too much 'wriggle room' in the innocent term "cost recovery basis". Weddings are important and must not become a money-making enterprise for local authorities.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, same fee as for a standard civil ceremony at a registrar's office.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

(2) this is a tragic situation and no fee should be charged. The two people getting married know what is ahead and should be given the gift of a free of charge marriage.

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I oppose the officiants scheme. This is going to be money-making scheme that will give the monopoly for training and CPD to an approved organisation. Currently, registrars are trained at public expense and Church of England ministers are also trained by their employer. The only outcome of the officiants scheme will be increased costs to get married.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1/ There is nothing in the current law that discourages marriage. The points that are raised to support the idea that current laws are restrictive miss the 'elephant in the room'. This metaphorical elephant is the strict requirements in the current law are to protect the institution of marriage, not discourage marriage. Marriage is a serious step and should be treated as such.

2/ The reasons why couples do not get married are varied. A major factor is that marriage no longer confers automatic benefits such as a meaningful married tax allowance, priority in housing, etc. In Singapore and other European countries marriage grants privileges that are material and support marriage over cohabitation. Currently, single parents are granted preferential treatment over married couples in areas such as housing, social security payments e.g. universal credit, and income support. Your proposals will increase the cost of weddings and will only benefit those who can afford a 'posh' wedding.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

From my understanding of the situation, there is a range of options open to couples depending on their budget and if they want a religious service. In my view, the cost of the wedding is fully under the control of the couple getting married, it is they that make the choices. 1/ and 3/ are the cheapest options, 2/ is more expensive. I cannot comment on 4/ and 5/. My main point is simply even if all wedding ceremonies were free, social pressures to outdo the Joneses jack up the total cost of a wedding. The cost of the ceremony is NOT a significant cost unless it is tied to hiring an exclusive venue.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again, the current arrangements are very good. Most places of worship do not charge anything like the commercial rate for a 'posh' National Trust wedding venue. The Registry office is also good value for money. There is no need for all this fuss about 'safe and dignified' and 'pick and mix' (think choosing sweets) approach. In my view, your proposals promise the moon and in practice only give the rich additional benefits, because they can AFFORD to make their weddings special. In reality, all most couples want is a basic wedding with one or two frills. Also, the current economic climate is making the wedding so expensive (not the ceremony itself) cohabitation is often chosen with marriage deferred to when they can afford it!

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have not commented on Question 87

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I will only comment on 4/. Marriage should not be looked at from a business opportunity point of view. However, being practical about things, business is always involved to a greater or lesser extent. I see no problem in offering a wider choice of 'wedding services' to couples that have the financial means to 'put on a do'. However, the main problem is that people's expectation of weddings is often beyond the means of the couple and their families. Hence the business opportunities you speak of are very limited and would only benefit a select number of high worth locations. That said, I doubt if the marriage rate in the UK, in general, will increase. Marriage is already a very middle-class institution apart from those with faith. The financial benefits of cohabitation or some form of part-time cohabitation are so great for everybody apart from the wealthy. If marriage was supported by the state as it is in Singapore and other European countries such as Hungary, then yes, the marriage rate would increase.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no comments on Question 88.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see zero benefits to local authorities. There would be an increase in bureaucracy and higher fee income for the same number of weddings. These two would cancel each other out.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see no problem if a couple chooses to get married in another jurisdiction. My only point is that it has to be legally accepted in the UK and not all countries of the world meet this standard. Singapore for example will not recognise same-sex marriages. This has been tried and the Singapore government has firmly said "no" to their marriage certificate. Singapore is not alone as many countries will not accept same-sex overseas marriage. Where someone gets married also affects overseas adoption of children.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see no problem if a couple chooses to get married in another jurisdiction. My only point is that it has to be legally accepted in the UK and not all countries of the world meet this standard. Singapore for example will not recognise same-sex marriages. This has been tried and the Singapore government has firmly said "no" to their marriage certificate. Singapore is not alone as many countries will not accept same-sex overseas marriage. Where someone gets married also affects overseas adoption of children.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see the drift of this question. The idea is wedding cruises will benefit the UK maritime sector because they are big business in other parts of the world. The UK lacks the sun and glitz of the Caribbean so I do not see it as being a winner.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see the drift of this question. The idea is wedding cruises will benefit the UK maritime sector because they are big business in other parts of the world. The UK lacks the sun and glitz of the Caribbean so I do not see it as being a winner.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have [REDACTED] some ideas to contribute.

1/ Reorganisation of the current arrangements will add costs mainly to local authorities who will need to expand their capabilities. This will have to be recouped from increased fees for services.

2/ I see some high-end prime locations getting more business, but do not see it as having any benefits for most businesses.

3/ Not much change apart from higher costs imposed on them adopting the new system.

4/ Additional expenses that will be recoped from couples. For example, Deck Officers will become officiants but their real job will remain running the ship.

5/ Couples will be the greatest losses from this reform. At every turn, they will face increased costs for what is for most the same services as the current



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF12-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 14:31:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Personal capacity

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree during the COVID pandemic

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it as it is

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What is a schedule

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

In church you choose your officiant, it is better if they are known by the couple.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Usually in both churches of the couple.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree, the couple should be known to the clergy otherwise the system can be misused

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Leave it as it is

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Leave as it is

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Doesn't make sense. Marriage should be before God.

Please share your views below:

Need to go back to basics and understand what marriage is, a commitment to each other before God.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is a public declaration

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It diminishes the purpose of the marriage ceremony

Please share your views below:

None see above

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No marriage ceremony is a public declaration

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That should be done beforehandp

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

When will it stop, ! English is the official language of the UK

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need paper records for the future.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Paperwork should be checked before issued  
Witnesses must be known to the couple

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What about forced marriages?

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problem with bedside weddings for terminal illness.  
Why would someone get married in prison? Don't know of the sort of reasons where that would be the reason for marrying in prison  
Housebound could be taken to a wedding venue.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be done sensitively. If in hospital the Chaplin would already know them.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to stay as it is. Too much authority in one position.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not a good idea to do things remotely.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Where will it end!

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Church or registry office

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't agree with the assumption that one could marry on the sea.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No demand!

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See above

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Discrimination

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

2

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they must marry in a registry office

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can be used to increase charges

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Another money making opportunity?

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure how that would work

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous comments

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

2

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what that would entail

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Couples get married because they want to commit to each other not because of any law. Marriage should be promoted as the best for the family bringing up children and for society

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no evidence on the impact of any of these costs, but it should not be a money making operation.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no view other than marriage is not a business opportunity and perhaps this COVID time has shown what marriage really is a commitment between two people.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriage ceremonies are not for the benefit of local authorities any proposals should be for the benefit of the institution of marriage

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriages between a UK resident and a person from overseas should be made easier for them to live together in this country. At the moment it is not helpful. My son has married an American citizen. They lived here for two years then she had to leave, so they live in America now.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No particular benefits

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs should be the minimum. Again not money making. Not a business.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1E-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 14:47:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

As a private citizen I do not wish to be trolled by any pressure groups

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in CofE 1970 [50 years]

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

to avoid arrange marriages and to ensure legality there should be some residency requirement, citizenship requirement and legal statement that they are not already married

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be any exception to a personal interview to verify details - no time limit if staff/registrars not available

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

the time needs to be enough to ensure the registrar [or officers in the registration system] are able to verify the details...

there must be protection for large age differences or for very young [to ensure it is not parental/communal pressure]

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

online does not ensure the person being interviewed ins not being pressured or "coached in some way...

Personal [in person]interview controls the environment and the way the persons are released to be "natural"

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If there is proof of agreement then the two parties could be interviewed in there respective locations or have provided evidence other required to satisfy the legal conditions and consents

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle agree - but if the wedding is called off then there should be a way of removing the notification to avoid ongoing emotional pain [bereavement etc.]

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Do not understand this point

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The point of the banns was for the parties of both communities [if not the same] to be able to bear witness to the "correctness" [legal] of the wedding

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

the clergy are acting as a registrar so all rules apply!

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

this is a part of the service - currently a legal declaration is required and should remain

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Sadly this is required to standardize the wedding process

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

some small churches do not have denominations/organisational oversight so the current observation by an official registrant should apply

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need to have legal control/verification

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The officiant must be responsible to ensure the legal requirements are fulfilled - which suggests a trained registrar is present

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

see answer 26

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

expenses should cover this - otherwise turning a public service into a business

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

we are beginning to confuse the idea of public service and turning the "officiaiant" role into a profession.this is covered in the current system

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a danger in moving away from "official" registrars that this could reduce the "solemnity" [seriousness - evn in this joyful/happy occasion]

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple are to make a public declaration in a place where it can be challenged if untrue [very rare] but the witness of others is required to recognise and celebrate support...

Anything else is to undermine the point of the declaration as they could say anything without it being verified/witnessed...

The currently understood church format contains all the safeguards and yet can be changed into an intimate celebration for the couple [families concerned]

Civil Marriages currently mimic this in a "non" religious way.

Non conformist churches have a registrar present to ensure the legal and dignified requirements are compleeted and the correct registration takes place

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

the requirement of the wedding are to ensure everything is taken seriously - so as a previous question implies there must be dignity and the community norms are required...

there can be a to of flexibility in the promises and statements made....

BUT the commitment to love and serve should be made in such a way as show that divorce is not the backstop - it is a lifelong commitment [not to be taken lightly]

see previous answer

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

weddings must conform to the legal requirement of declaration of eligibility and ongoing commitment as in a legal contract

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[warning] mixing the 2 could give the impression that the religious organisation has sanctioned the ceremony which is not the case

Please share your views below:

can ask people to pray for support of the new family

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

when there is a civil wedding because of location or church affiliation [no registrar]

the civil service can take place followed by the "religious celebration/blessing"...

the civil celebrants can leave when when the registration documents are signed.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

why open doors - only to protect against forced marriage which is covered elsewhere

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

this could remove the sense of dignity - it must be in accordance with the dignity of the ceremony and provide a sense of occasion...

it must be in a place where the "promises" are heard by others....

it must be safe for all [not underwater or hot air balloon etc.]

Please share your views below:

see above answer

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

is this a matter of equal provision [equality/non discrimination?]

Consultation Question 50:

No

Other

No

Please expand on your answer:

non religious officiants counter the belief system of the location - offensive?  
the other way is not relevant as they do not hold a belief stance

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the officiant must be able to refuse to officiate in some places for safety and dignity reasons  
[not on a fairground ride! Or underground train etc.]

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General registration office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

official documents are accepted in both languages aren't they?

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

only to maintain an electronic register BUT the original registration must be a document available to both parties [as in any contract]

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

witnesses MUST be provided

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

none - follow the relevant requirements for registration

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

do not understand the proposal

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

same as for others?

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

specific requires oversight by magistrate ?



Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as now?

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Why?

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

senior officers authorised by Government

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Unknown

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

if it is for a health condition whereby they are incapacitated it should be reviewed

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

compassionate rate

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

i do not think any of the proposed changes are really required

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not think any changes are necessary

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No additional benefits - just additional confusion in options

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

unknown

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no knowledge

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

government will need to pay for changes in rules  
to pay for their services

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1H-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 15:03:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Historic Houses

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Approximately 500 (33%) of our Historic Houses member properties are wedding venues, and income from these weddings is essential to help to pay for maintenance and repair at these irreplaceable heritage sites (the majority of which are Grade I or Grade II\* listed). Covid related wedding restrictions since March have led to thousands of cancellations and postponements, with the decision to reduce wedding numbers from 30 down to 15 in England

alone leading to an estimated £750m of losses. Weddings make a meaningful contribution to millions of people's lives, and support a vast ecology of SME businesses, often in otherwise fragile rural economies. Yet the weddings industry has been chronically overlooked by government support packages, and wedding venues have not been eligible for any of the cultural sector grants that have been provided so far.

The plight of couples whose wedding event had been disrupted during the pandemic featured frequently in the media during the summer of 2020. The Competition and Markets Authority chose to make weddings one of just three specific priorities for investigation (along with holiday accommodation and nurseries) in relation to cancellation and refund policies (see statement issued 30 April 2020). The CMA's own data, however, suggest that weddings were the subject of a very small minority of complaints it received (more than half the complaints the CMA received had related to holidays, not weddings).

The CMA published guidance for weddings businesses on 7 September 2020, setting out its view on how requests by couples for refunds should be treated. This guidance put an emphasis on consumers being offered "full refunds" in instances where lockdown laws had prevented a wedding from going ahead on the agreed date. At the same time however the CMA's guidance freely acknowledged that "the wedding business may, however, be able to withhold certain limited amounts relating to expenses it has already incurred in respect of the wedding".

In the case of Bijou Weddings, the CMA determined that "37.2% of the contract price was the maximum amount Bijou could deduct from its refunds to any customer". The CMA later (26 November 2020) issued a clarification to explain that 37.2% was an upper limit, and that on average Bijou had been able to retain 28% of customer deposits in respect of costs. So, the insistence made by the CMA on 7 September that "full [eg 100%] refunds" were owed had become an acceptance, by 26 November, that 72% (rather than 100%) refunds were acceptable (in the particular case of Bijou) and that each wedding contract should anyway be considered on its own merits. The incorrect and contradictory statements issued by the Competition and Markets Authority – a Government-sponsored public agency – added significantly to the woes faced by wedding venues throughout 2020.

Some of our members have provided testimonies of the impact Covid-19 has had on their weddings businesses this year:

'Penton Park were due to host 15 weddings this year, all of which had to be rescheduled and were seeking full refunds. This December, the £2500 licence fee was due for renewal, alongside over £15,000 in essential repairs and maintenance to our listed building - this would all have been funded by the weddings. After the government's announcement regarding weddings being limited to 15 people, we made the decision to cancel all our weddings and refund over £65,000 of deposits. We are presently pivoting our business as we do not believe that viable wedding income will resume for the duration of 2021, and certainly not for the peak summertime months - meaning another year of little to no income. Having been listed as one of the top 30 venues in the country this really has been devastating for us. We qualified for the £10,000 local authority support grant but we've received no other support in this area.'

'The impact of the pandemic and the closure of the wedding business has been disastrous for Tissington Hall, a Grade II\* listed building in the Peak District. We have had to postpone 35 weddings to 2021 and beyond, blocking up the potential for new business in the future. Ten months on some brides are cancelling and asking for deposits back, which makes things even harder. We estimate to have lost gross fees of around £200,000, which when added to the commissions, accommodation bookings and associated traders' income (florists, taxi firms, cake makers) means a grand estimate of over £500,000 lost to the local rural economy.'

'Covid 19 restrictions have been disastrous for weddings at Browsholme Hall, Lancashire. Since March 2020 over 70 weddings have been postponed or cancelled. The annual revenue needed to protect the heritage has therefore been zero in 2020, with consequent impact on staffing and repairs. The Law Commission's proposal to allow ceremonies other than in registered locations is warmly welcomed by both our existing and new couples.'

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. The strict division between religious and civil ceremonies can be highly limiting for both couples and venues, and the strict existing rules around religious readings, music, and iconography do not account for flexible spiritual beliefs. Many modern couples would like the opportunity to include a Christian blessing or hymn within a civil ceremony (for example) whilst not having a full Anglican service, but currently are forced to choose between secular civil weddings and religious church weddings.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Our members' wedding venues are located on private property where it is often not safe or practical to allow general public access during ceremonies. Couples seeking private venues should be permitted to have fully private weddings.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. There is a significant interest in open-air weddings and more unusual locations, and our members are keen to offer a variety of beautiful settings which they are currently unable to license under existing laws. Historic houses and gardens are well placed to cater to this demand, featuring romantic settings such as parks, gardens, lakes, combined with the elegant indoor spaces that couples are looking for. This would also allow more venues to engage in the current demand for 'rustic' weddings, and would be an opportunity for important but underused and at risk structures such as historic follies, barns, and stables to be restored to viable use.

Increased flexibility of venue will offer a range of different options and packages to cater to different couples' tastes and budgets, whilst allowing venues to expand and diversify their offer. For larger venues, this would mean being able to host multiple indoor and outdoor weddings concurrently, whilst for smaller venues with limited indoor space, it would open up the option to host larger weddings outdoors. Some Historic Houses members only host receptions, or don't host weddings at all because of the difficulties of needing a permanent licensed structure such as a marquee – in the curtilage of listed buildings this requires planning permission, which is often refused. Inside, hosting weddings risks wear and tear of the historic fabric of the building and collections, security risks, lack of access, and fire regulation issues – all of which can currently outweigh the benefits for an historic venue of hosting weddings.

Above all, allowing outdoor weddings would help to safeguard against any future social distancing or outdoor-only event requirements. These restrictions have decimated the industry this year, which has further demonstrated the limitations of the current 'licensed structure' system. Had venues been allowed to move their events outdoors, many would have been able to adapt to Covid restrictions and proceed with open-air Covid-secure weddings.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should not be prohibited. There is significant demand, particularly among older couples, for small civil ceremonies in religious buildings such as private chapels. These venues provide an intimate traditional setting which is perfect for these smaller weddings, but currently can only be used for religious ceremonies. Historic House members whose estates include these private chapels must currently choose whether or not to deconsecrate them, with both options restricting the type of weddings these special places can be used for.

Similarly, If a religious officiant is willing to carry out a ceremony in any secular setting, they should be permitted to do so. Religious couples should not be excluded from seeking out secular venues, nor from benefitting from the new freedoms to opt for open-air weddings, which are universally popular in other countries and often highly appropriate for religious ceremonies. Currently, couples who want a religious ceremony must marry off-site and then travel to their chosen reception venue, adding expense and wasting time on their wedding day. Others opt for a religious blessing after a civil ceremony, which clergy already willingly provide in secular settings. If venues were able to offer these religious ceremonies on-site, it would be both more convenient for the couple, and allow venues to expand their offer. It would also help to minimise environmental damage from wedding parties and guests travelling back and forth unnecessarily between ceremony and reception venues.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided that officiants undergo training or receive guidance to determine whether a location is safe and appropriate for a wedding. If the officiant signs off on the location, it is also important that they carry the necessary liability and insurance for any unforeseen issues or accidents at the location. This is particularly crucial in settings such as woodland, beaches or fields on a rural estate, which may involve natural hazards.

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. This would reduce the need for scoping visits by officiants, and offer more certainty for couples who may be seeking a 'tried and tested' venue.

Please share your views below:

As proposed in the consultation, we support an opt-in system whereby a Local Authority would hold a list of pre-approved venues which had previously hosted weddings.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure. Venues are really struggling to meet costs after this year, and are already burdened by significant fees related to planning, fire regulations, health and safety, licensing and more. A small fee may be acceptable, but a larger fee (such as the current venue licensing fee of thousands of pounds) will prevent some venues from being able to join the scheme, and possibly create a two-tier system of larger venues who are able to afford pre-approval and smaller venues which cannot.

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Allowing couples to arrange ceremonies which are better tailored to their personal beliefs and tastes will make marriage more accessible to all. It is also likely to increase the demand for domestic weddings in cases where the law would previously have encouraged couples seeking more flexible ceremonies and locations to marry abroad.

The pandemic has also created a huge backlog of couples who otherwise would have had weddings this year. This surplus has seen many venues booked up for the next two years and even beyond, so opening up the wedding venue market to allow weddings in a wider variety of settings as soon as possible will ensure that the market can respond to this surplus. Due to this increased need for weddings and especially outdoor weddings, we would urge the Law Commission to fast-track their recommendations so that the industry can begin to recoup as soon as possible after what has been an extremely difficult year for couples, venues and suppliers alike.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1D-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 15:12:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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Telephone number:

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Small churches having no legally recognised registration officer would not be able to hold a meaningful marriage ceremony in which all is completed at one venue.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Laws change and so does the idea of what is acceptable public policy or morality. To enshrine this in law might mean that holding certain ideologies that are acceptable today might not be so in the future. Biblical teaching on marriage may be acceptable today but not tomorrow.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a very serious matter and should not be entered into lightly. Allowing independent officiants would pave the way to those who may not take this seriously enough. It also opens the door to the possibility of independent officiants becoming big business in the future. The more you pay the more outlandish or extreme the conditions under which you might get married.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words are important to be uttered agreed and witness in the wedding ceremony. If not you might as well apply for marriage certificate on line like a TV license or something. The prescribed words must remain to be spoken and agreed otherwise the ceremony has little significance.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A legal wedding ceremony must be a reflection of the seriousness of the agreement into which a couple are committing themselves. Again this would potentially open the door to commercialisation.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If weddings took place behind closed doors then it widens the opportunities for bigamy and forced marriages to occur.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1R-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 15:13:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Other

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a civil marriage blessed by the church.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is fully recognised in law.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment for life and as such it should be legally binding.

No

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is legally binding.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

NA

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

NA

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious undertaking, its importance should not be diminished by relatively quick decision-making.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be face to face!

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice should be given in all cases in England or Wales.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NO.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for this.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

In the church where the wedding is to take place and on line.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to 1 & 2.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

YES, they both should attend and make declarations.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1

No to 2. A wedding is either civil or religious. It is not non-religious.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See the answer to the previous question.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

What does | "public policy or morality" mean? This is too vague!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What are "independent officiants"? This is too vague!

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties MUST attend the ceremony.  
The prescribed words MUST be used.  
This proposal trivialises marriage!

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are NOT do-it-yourself projects!

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Do Anglican, Jewish and Quaker authorities agree with this proposal?  
If not, my answer is NO.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal would ban a religious service and is unacceptable.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public undertaking.

The provision of 'open doors' was a protection against forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would trivialise marriage!

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

"Dignified" would have to be considerably expanded before I said 'yes'.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 53:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF11-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 15:16:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I have no official status in my church,

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My wife and I have been unable to attend a wedding during the Covid virus period which was booked to take place in the summer but had to be postponed because of difficulties with the venue arising from virus protections and the very limited number able to attend.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Plainly, the Commission is aware of the problem of 'force' and lack of consent of one of the parties. it seems to me that as that is the case it would be best always to hold a face to face interview.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can see the value of this. Sometimes when the couple are dealing with the registration notice etc. requirements they have not decided on the name of the officiant or even do not know it but only that they are going to be married in a particular church.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In small churches [REDACTED] there is often no 'authorised person' appointed, and the local Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths attends and is in an adjoining room, but able to hear the couple use the 'prescribed words' and later prepare the Marriage Certificate and complete the Register. The reasons why there is no authorised person vary but mostly, it is because the church is few in numbers and the administrative burden of appointing such a person and changing them when they die or move away is too onerous for the small congregation. Continuing the current arrangements will help ensure that a couple who e.g. marry in my church because of their Christian beliefs, are enabled to have a 'meaningful' ceremony incorporating both their religion and the civil law requirements, and this seems to be one of the aims of the Law Commission. Why try to fix something which is not broken? Removing the presence of the Registrar of Marriages will mean that in such a church the couple will likely need also to attend a separate Civil registration ceremony which takes away from the meaningfulness of the 'joint' ceremony which is the current arrangement.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why have a minimum limit on number of members? Surely, a church with 15 members would be as able to nominate an officiant if they want to do so as a larger body.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is contentious because Christians have a perception that the law is currently being interpreted in ways which in relation some social issues (whether it be, the transgender debate, LGBT rights or, and most importantly, on the question of what constitutes a marriage) seems to result in decisions which run counter to Christian and Biblical views.

When I was [REDACTED] visiting regularly the local Registrar's office [REDACTED], this conservative/Biblical view also corresponded, in the main, with the State's view of marriage, so that there was no need to worry about the interpretation of law resulting in decisions which seem to Christian believers, like me, to be wrong. I say this because I recall seeing in the local Registry office an official Notice on display which read so far as I recall "Marriage according to the law of this land is the union of one man with one woman for life to the exclusion of all others". That was also the Christian/Biblical view. However, currently, this is not the State's definition of marriage and Christians find themselves in difficulties.

Therefore, it is unwise to introduce a law which excludes bodies from nominating officiants if the body (e.g. church) espouses views which the State, through its various organs deems contrary to public policy or morality. This is because the State's views - the Court's view - on these issues of policy and morality may and now, often are, contrary to the Christian/Biblical view of what is right and good as moral.

Therefore, it would be better not to include such words in this 'test' but rather to deal with 'excluding' certain bodies on a test based more on facts than opinions about policy or morality. In other words to have a more objective, rather than subjective 'test' e.g. the body concerned 'promotes violence against women' or 'violent overthrow of the State or society' which are illegal.

It is dangerous to exclude persons on the basis of policy and morality where the views of different people, including State officials, as to what constitutes immorality or what is inimical to the public are so subjective and direr so widely.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I doubt this would be a good idea or helpful in the long-term in promoting a stable society. It is possible that 'officiants' will see their position as 'just a business' proposition. At present, in those churches which have an 'authorised person', the 'officiant' has no financial interest in carrying out those duties; gets no gain and tends to be a person of strong Christian or other religious beliefs who is likely to uphold the dignity of marriage and to resist any requests of the couple for 'outlandish' undignified rites. The Commission's proposal could lead to a 'business' which would have much less interest in the dignity of marriage; the way the ceremony is conducted, and be more inclined than an 'uncommitted/independent' officiant (authorised person) to 'allow' almost anything in the ceremony that the parties to the marriage requested.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See my answer to Q29 above. Put it in by all means if you must, but there is not need to do so - currently, 'authorised persons' in religious bodies such as churches do not do the work for financial reward, but as a Christian duty.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I doubt whether such guidance would satisfy many like me who think that many Government bodies no longer have sympathy for the Christian religion which has been foundational in our country.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Would such CPD simply reflect the changing mores of society or the fixed teaching of the Christian faith and of the Bible.? Probably it would not.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would prefer that the prescribed words which must now be said during the wedding ceremony be retained and the parties' consent should be expressed in the manner which those words currently require. Why omit the words about impediment? Surely, it is a good thing to at least put the parties under some 'pressure' to reveal such things as consanguinity or bigamy.

In place of this current, easily understood requirement. the Commission propose what could turn out to be a multitude of different ways of ensuring that consent etc. is expressed and this cannot be good for marriage. One of the great reasons for traditions like the current marriage requirements is that everyone knows what they say, what they mean and that all who are married are equally all within a 'state' of marriage. What is the purpose of giving the Registrar this proposed notice? It will simply create more bureaucracy and greater uncertainty about whether the ceremony did constitute marriage. Especially is this so if the method of expressing consent is to be inferred other than from words. This uncertainty is probably the reason for the Commission's use of the words of their parts 3 and 4 of this question.

It is probable also that allowing more and more ways of expressing consent will lead to the over-personalisation of the ceremony and to it being seen as idiosyncratic and purely personal, rather than a public declaration in a form everyone understands.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that this too will result in some bizarre ceremonies which, while satisfying the couple's wishes, does nothing either for the dignity of marriage nor for the concept - long part of marriage history through the ages - that marriage is a public, not a private ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current prohibition of anything like a 'religious' element in civil ceremonies is difficult to justify, especially when, even if not religious, the couple want e.g. to say a prayer or have one said for them.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is an essential element of the public nature of marriage. Everybody has an interest in who is and who is not married. Historically this probably has much to do with the question of who is to be responsible for a couples' children. Further, a public marriage may help to stop forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Bizarre places, like while sky-diving or in a submarine, add nothing to the ideas of a public ceremony, nor to the Commission's view that the dignity of the marriage ceremony should be protected.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In the air would plainly not be either 'public' or dignified. In private homes also removes the requirement for a public ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My reasons have been set out above.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This helps with ensuring that family trees are clear and can be traced subsequently.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The whole matter of relying on electronic means for important 'paper' procedures is fraught with possibilities of 'hacking' and uncertainty, much as seems to be occurring in elections elsewhere.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not quite sure what this is aimed at. However, the idea of getting married and then not co-habiting seems to me to be the very opposite of the reason for marriage, namely stable families, either of the couple themselves, or of them plus their children. If it is to guard rules about inheritance after a marriage e.g in hospital or the sudden death of one party immediately after the ceremony then I do not have anything against that.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anything which limits the right of a party to a marriage from claiming that they were e.g. coerced into the marriage, should remain in place and not be abolished.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that the current regulations do not discourage marriage and that the proposals of the Commission are unlikely to facilitate couples getting married except, perhaps, those who want to be able to have a ceremony which is purely personal and idiosyncratic e.g. marriage in the basket of a balloon.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1X-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 15:22:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Gives notice to others regarding their intention to marry

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes at least to meet with clergy

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided it is purely voluntary

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Not in agreement

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1Y-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 15:39:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Divorced.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Standard church wedding service according to the law of the land.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Although we have an "authorised person" at our church who can officiate in this capacity, this proposal would restrict those Christian churches that do not possess such a person insofar as they would not then be able to hold weddings since they would not be able to procure the services of a suitable person because the civil registrar would be restricted to officiating at a civil service only.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The term "contrary to public policy or morality" is far too subjective an assessment. If people hold views that are entirely legal but which are not necessarily popular with some, it would prejudice their being right to nominate officials. Instead, "the test" should focus on more objective criteria. For example these criteria

could include promoting purposes that are illegal, or support illegal activity; such as terrorism for example, or that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, those who officiate at wedding ceremonies are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage. Independent officiants (known as 'celebrants') can currently conduct weddings that are not legally binding. These have included ceremonies held in many undignified places. One ceremony involved a couple dressed as a pair hedgehogs! Such ceremonies utterly undermine the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without these words the wedding ceremony can easily be as meaningless as the couple or the officiant chooses, and therefore legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government. Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind. Marriage is supposed to be a commitment for life. Therefore, it must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually. The prescribed words are only a small part of the entire wedding ceremony, but form an important part of what is being committed to. The rules are already extremely flexible about what happens in the rest of the ceremony. It is hard to imagine a genuine wedding in which it would not be desirable to include the prescribed words at some point. Allowing wholly personalised wedding ceremonies without any legally-required words would send the message that marriage is an entirely private matter, and cheapen marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple. A non-legally binding ceremony can already be as personalised as people want. These have included ceremonies held in many unsuitable and undignified places. Such personalisation will damage the sanctity and value of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement fulfils a valuable part of wedding day celebrations. It makes it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole as an essential building block of society. Equally, it might be said the opposite is also important; weddings which are not publicly accessible tend to make a statement that said marriage is private and of interest only to the couple themselves. This couldn't be further from the truth. Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage or bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It could be a matter of serious concern that it is unclear in these proposals as to what safeguards will be in place to prevent unsuitable venues being used. How then will the essential dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed? Whilst the consultation does state that any venue would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', this lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Any venue used must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding itself. The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings "in the air", suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly. Unofficial weddings have been conducted underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Halloween. Such settings quite clearly trivialise marriage, and the law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies. The solemnity, value and importance of marriage should not be trivialised in this way.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1S-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 15:55:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am answering as an individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

married in registry office

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I know that they were originally banned, then later restricted to small numbers.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be considered and planned for, not suddenly agreed on

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Leave things as they are

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Not sure

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Confidentiality is v important

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Not sure.

If an officiant has committed a crime, is he or she still able to officiate?

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Probably yes

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

There should be both home and away banns

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Don't know

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is ok to keep on with common practice to use registration officers as many churches do not have their own trained reg. officers, and things should be done properly

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

We need to tread carefully here. The Bible is clear that marriage is between a man and a woman. Church officiants who also hold this view are at odds to society but it is right that they are permitted both freedom of speech and also permitted to be employed as full time staff of the Church.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Church ministers and Reg. Office registrars are well trained to carry out their duties. I think that we should uphold high values in ministers and registrars. We can't allow [REDACTED] to conduct official weddings if [REDACTED] does not have a thorough understanding of the marriage ceremony or would permit ceremonies to take place in unregistered places. We don't need court cases to prove whether 2 individuals were ever legally married.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Has GRO ever issued guidance to churches before now?

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Although the Prescribed Words make up only a small part of a marriage ceremony, they should be kept as they make up solemn vows.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages are already personal to the 2 individuals.

I think that the seriousness of the vows and hopefully life time commitment should override outlandish wishes for strange attire and weird venues.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage remains a stable rock of our society. Every ceremony should be open for all, even if only out of curiosity and as a check that everything is happening legally. Forbid that closed doors be used to support under-age marriage, or where the woman does NOT give voluntary assent, or where bigamy is being committed.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Use registered buildings

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Civil marriage ceremony should be just as precious and solemn as church or RO ceremonies.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Leave it up to each organisation to decide which ceremonies can take place in their premises.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Easier to have prescribed venues. Some people can be bullies!!!

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1973 H&SAW Act ensures that we are all responsible for our own safety and also for the safety of those around us. Marriage ceremonies should be dignified, not a Saturday night tv show.

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

If there is no known or living father, would be good to give mother's occupation.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure. Electronic systems are open to abuse.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

We need to be more flexible here

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No co-ercion please!

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Life is increasingly unpredictable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Risk of death eg death threats are not the same as terminal illness.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on circumstances of the persons giving notice.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am far more concerned that struggling marriages should be supported rather than directed to easy divorce.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Private venues can be v. expensive, but there is a lot of choice available.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Is it right for non- UK citizens to travel here then perhaps claim UK citizenship?

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD9N-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 16:20:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Derbyshire County Council Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not need this to be kept confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have conducted and registered weddings during the pandemic. I feel that weddings in the register office that we have full control over all went safely and according to the government guidelines. However weddings in external places such as hotels I did not feel very safe at as the staff did not always ensure that all the guidelines were followed. When the majority of the guests are not wearing masks it places the registrar in a very difficult position of not feeling safe or potentially alienating the guests and the couple by asking for them to be put on.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as we need to ensure that there is a UK address for them should any further contact be needed

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, this would be so much easier for all concerned if the preliminaries could already be available to the registrar when the informant's attend the register office. It is needed for them to attend though so that identify checks and the right to be married in the UK can be confirmed.

#### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it should be seven days to allow for any potential issues to be resolved before the wedding day, three days is too short a space of time especially if a weekend and bank holiday are involved which could push over the three days.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agreed with this, but only if there are certain and very thorough checks made to ensure nationality, identity and the right to marry. Given the current pandemic it would be safer health wise for all concerned if this could be remotely. Without these checks though, then no I think it should be in person.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely, all these conditions at the moment are well covered and I see no reason to deviate from them. We want to ensure that our commonwealth areas and armed forces are able to give notice.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as it may be impossible for people to travel to see them displayed at the register office, although I think they should be displayed online and in the register office as we have to consider that some people do not have internet access.

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As notices are valid for 12 months now I do not see any reason to change this if we move over to schedules.

#### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, we need to ensure that the officiant is identified and that checks can then be made to ensure they are entitled to officiate at a ceremony. Any amendments should be officially done to ensure that details are correct and up to date should any further checks be needed then or in the future.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that somebody should be able to step in to cover, as this would happen now if the vicar or registrar was not available. However there do need to be some rules or checks put in place to ensure that this is still a legal and valid officiant, to ensure the marriage is also legal and valid.

Please share your views below:

I can't think of any other reason that a substitute should be used, but would be willing to consider any other circumstances.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As these countries have their own national and accepted churches for their countries I agree with this. We should not allow other countries that we can not easily regulate to do this work on our behalf. If people wish to be married in an Anglican wedding in England they should have to publish banns in England.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given that war damage these days would be on a far greater extent than back in the times of the first and second world wars, whereby whole regions could be damaged, I agree that this should be repealed. Our services will have a lot more to deal with than somebody wishing to get married in an Anglican church.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As we are considering online publication for notices I believe that we should consider online publication for banns also. People may not have the ability to travel to the local church to check the banns. It may also be considered if they are published in a register office.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely, as these are minimum requirements at the moment for civil weddings they should be for Anglican ones. There are important reasons why these checks must be mandatory.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely, we must consider that either person is open to be put under duress to form a marriage and may find it impossible to convey this if their partner was present at the interview.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It would streamline the system to ensure that all details are kept by one authority and there is no confusion over which system to use.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes we have to ensure that the legality of marriage is maintained.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration Officers should not be asked to officiate at religious weddings as that may not be their religion or they disagree with the religion. They should not be put in the position that they have say religious words that they disagree with.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No for safety reasons I do not agree to only one registrar attending. Where the wedding is to be held in premises such as a hotel, as long as they have staff present to run the wedding then I would consider that one registrar may be enough. However after officiated at many weddings I do not believe that all staff and areas where there are not to be staff such as peoples private gardens, it is not suitable from a safety point of view to there by yourself. You have no back up and should things not go well you have nobody to turn to for assistance.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are regulated and trained to perform this role I see no issue with it.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely fine that they regulate their own officiants as long as they can confirm that all legalities and training have been undertaken and that they keep the register updated and available to be checked by registrars.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it should be defined and set up as a legal entity.

Please share your views below:

Yes there should be organisations that are non religious and still able to have officiants.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that the belief in marriage should be held but not necessarily that at least 20 members are needed.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely, it has to be lawful and moral.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree, as a registrar I am nominated by office

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as this then means that it is maintained appropriately.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes that way it is controlled by the GRO.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but with the proviso that they meet the minimum set requirements as defined by law or regulations.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to ensure that it is all regulated correctly.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If this is the living they choose then they should be paid in order for them live a reasonable standard of living.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to them setting their own fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree as this could prove a conflict of interest.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, if you don't believe in it yourself you should not be allowed to officiate.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely as this means they are the one regulating body.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but GRO should also have this responsibility

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes and also they should be able to take action against the body if they have failed in their duty of care.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As the regulating body they should have this right.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, there needs to be rules in place in order that the process is kept legal.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, and they would then have to reapply.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in order to make it lawful

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as long as it is lawful and abides to any regulations

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it should remain with the religious group to police.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No as it may go against beliefs of one of the parties.

Please share your views below:

No I think civil weddings should be kept non religious

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No as I believe a civil ceremony should be non religious.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as people can object before the ceremony takes place.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some control over where a wedding can be held

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,

Please share your views below:

I believe they could be held outdoors and also on inland waters, but in the air or in a private home may cause issues.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The public has time to object before the wedding takes place so should not need access to the wedding itself,

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious and civil weddings should be kept separate, however I believe that blessings could take place at a civil wedding if wished by the couple marrying.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be control over where a wedding can be held not just the view of the officiant

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as that is written into a contract or such like that the officiant is held responsible to.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would provide the same rules for all I agree.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

GRO and the officiant should be responsible

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Dependant on security but in principle yes

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree on the mistakes but witnesses and signing are a must

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In general I disagree as they should be together, but there may be circumstances where they may not

No

Please expand on your answer:

just because you live together does not mean you are legally a couple I completely disagree with this and it goes against the reason for being married and therefore legitimising and legalising your relationship

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I believe these rules are working at the moment and I don't see any reason to alter them

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes as we need to ensure the same level of checking as for any marriage

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes as long as checks are in place

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

no if they are wanting to get married because they are terminally ill it should be held promptly, otherwise they should follow the full process of notices or banns

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If they want the validity period to be this long they should follow the notice or banns process

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

as long as security checks are in place and a full procedure is documented and followed I think this is acceptable.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I think this an option that may be considered in the future but for the moment with so many changes likely to happen I would put this on hold

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as the officiant may be a ships employee and the schedules of their work not known I believe they should propose a named role not an named individual

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

they will have the same powers so should abide by the same rules

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I believe they should be non religious as in general we don't religious officiants employed by cruise ships

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

the authority employing the officer must be compensated and also the officer attending

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

the same amount of work if not more is required so I would expect the same fee

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

not everybody wants a big ceremony so they should continue

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

I believe the same fee as a registration office wedding should be used

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't see that the current law discourages people from getting married, if you are committed to your relationship then you should ensure that it is legal. I think the provisional proposals will lead to more people getting married, but i'm not sure that will be for legal purposes

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think as the costs would be know up front it is entirely up to the couple wanting to get married as to how much they want to pay, the variety ensures there are options for all.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think register office weddings are a must and should be made available to all. I don't believe in a preapproval process. A legal wedding if you wish to be married is a must.,

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

aa

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't believe the new rules will help local authorities at all in fact I think they will make their job even more difficult

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

..

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7P-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 16:41:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Recognised by law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Preferably longer to give them due time for reflection/planning

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The way a wedding is conducted has an effect, not only on the couple themselves, but also on all the others who are present, or hear/see or become aware of it later, eg if it is taken (by all involved) with a due seriousness and awareness of the meaning and lifelong significance of marriage, this will affect every body's view of that marriage, and (to some extent) of all marriages.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be stressed that this is a serious occasion (as well, of course, as a happy one!), and that though some degree of merriment may enter in later, it is about a lifelong (and therefore life changing) commitment.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely there needs to be some officially approved form of words expressing clearly that this is a lifelong commitment, freely and sincerely entered into.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing "public access" goes along with the fact that this wedding (as every other wedding) is of concern to the whole community (which is presumably why we have laws about it), and not merely a private affair.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be due regard to what I've already tried to say - this occasion needs to be recognised as a lifelong, serious, vitally important matter, and people are affected (some more, some less) by the place in which something happens - there is a fitness about some places that other places lack. eg a funeral service would "feel" all wrong in a circus ring!

Please share your views below:

No to all of them, on the grounds I stated above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On the grounds stated above; this/any wedding is of concern to the whole community and not just a limited number.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF77-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 16:56:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a Church of England place of worship, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of that Church and according to law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The residential requirement provides a safety net preventing hurried and possibly illegal marriages taking place e.g. a minor giving a false age or an illegal immigrant who may be married already with a spouse in another country. Notice enables the authorities to make any necessary checks.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For the reasons stated above.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A longer period is desirable in order that any necessary checks on the information given by the two parties may be carried out.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All interviews should be in person so that body language and attitudes can be ascertained clearly.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes,

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should also be published as in the present forms in order to prevent clandestine and illegal marriages. Publishing on line may not cover all contingencies of reaching to the public - this is a concern as a marriage is a matter of public situation and not just a private arrangement.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the officiant or the substitute be a properly authorised person for the purpose ,in order to preserve the seriousness and the dignity of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the answer above.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current system has worked. Why interfere with it ?

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published in the building where the marriage is to take place as it is an act of information to the local community of an intending change in the situation of two people within the community

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This is most important. Unfortunately, people in these days cannot generally be relied upon to give truthful answers if it is not convenient to them. Evidence is necessary as the days when it would have been considered inconceivable to lie to a priest have long gone. Face to face meetings are necessary, not only to provide signs of suspicious behaviour but also for the priest to share the seriousness of the marriage commitment with the couple concerned.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Unfortunately, now that forced marriages are a possibility again these days a separate declaration would be advisable.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the above provisos, this should continue.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is most important as the status of marriage is integral to the stability of society and of the wellbeing of any issue of that marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the organisation itself must liaise with the General register Office over such a matter.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a danger of some parties taking a frivolous view. Marriage should always be seen as a serious commitment . It is not just a private matter for the couple concerned but a matter for society as a whole.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be confusing to the couple and to people present. It would seem to be illogical not to have a religious ceremony if one wanted a civil ceremony with some religious content. It must be one or the other.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There may be instances where a couple wish to have a civil ceremony but would wish to have that marriage blessed and prayed for publicly.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors is a provision to prevent secretive and possibly illegal marriages taking place.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The serious nature of marriage must be upheld. Marriage in the monkey house of a zoo could not be seen to do that.

Please share your views below:

In view of the above answer it is obvious that marriages should take place in authorised places as at present. Marriage in a hang glider is not conducive to dignity or a serious commitment to the marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English is the common language of the United Kingdom. If local languages are used then there must be an additional English version. If Welsh only were to be accepted then it will not be long before there will be demands for the Gaelic, Erse, and Cornish languages to be used.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would render the ceremony to be open to fraud. Witness must be present and the necessary documents must be properly signed for authentication.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the partners are not to cohabit this makes it possible for marriages of convenience to take place e.g. whereby one party can gain citizenship by virtue of the marriage. Clearly, the requirement of cohabitation must be waived in certain cases e.g. where one party is immediately called up for military service in an emergency.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage itself, whether religious or civil, is a stabilising factor in society and it is a proven aid to the stability of the nurturing of any issue.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding



Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What a marvellous opportunity for fraud if matters were to be dealt with and carried out remotely. A crazy idea.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This provision would make it possible for frivolous activities to take place and reduce the seriousness of the marriage ceremony and status.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current and proposed legislation has no effect on couples deciding whether or not to be married. It behoves society as a whole to encourage marriage, religious or civil, in order to maintain a stable community and nurturing of issue.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7V-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 17:07:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a widow and my marriage is fully lawful.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

There were no legal barriers to my wedding.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be shown commitment to marriage and living within a registration district allows any discrepancy to be investigated before the marriage ceremony

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The safest way to ensure that the parties are willing and legally able to take part will be easier ascertained with consultation, even in this time of Covid 19 and safety restrictions having to be observed.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should continue to be possible, as largely this has worked successfully in the past.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should continue to be seen and if for any reason the intended marriage is deemed unlawful, this will give time for this to be investigated.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

What 'other circumstances' do you have in mind?

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the Union between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales remains, these should be upheld

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A church must be able to hold a Service where the Banns are read for people to hear them. If the church is closed, injured by war damage, this may not be able to happen

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If this is the current rule, why change it?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

- 1, This is necessary
2. This is best practice

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes, they should

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican preliminaries are conducted by honest, legal and sincere clergy and these are the best people to conduct a marriage.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If required, registration officers should be allowed to officiate at Christian/church weddings

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

organisations which do not uphold the sanctity of marriage should not be included

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Organisations, whether 'religious' or not should not be able to nominate officiants if that organisation promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as long as the officiants are compliant with the lawful understanding of the marriage contract.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The couples should be allowed to express their opinion that their marriage is sanctified an before God, even in a civil wedding.

Consultation Question 46:



No

Please expand on your answer:

A religious marriage service should be allowed after a civil service to solemnize a wedding where it has not been possible to conduct the wedding service in a church.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It remains important that marriages are to be seen and not hidden away to protect either partner from illegal or forced actions leading to the marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings need to be seen, and conducted in a safe place.

outdoors,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Weddings can be outdoors in locations where others can safely take part in the ceremony, e.g.in a garden, or public place.

In a private home will be suitable as long as there are witnesses.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages need to be accessible to witness to prevent illegal and/or coercion of one partner.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues must not be forced to conduct services not conducive to their faith.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location or venue should have the final word on whether that venue will allow a service of marriage to be conducted on its premises.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The officiant needs to be responsible but fully consult those taking part in the marriage the viability of the venue and the meaning of the act of marriage in the light of the chosen location.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is incumbent that a legal marriage is correctly witnessed, signed and registered to become legal.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should acknowledge that that they are not legally married either separate, legally agree to co-habiting or organise themselves to be legally married if this is possible.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A year should be long enough to establish lack of consent.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

proof should be sought

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the wedding ceremony is on board ship and not swimming in or under the water.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Fully equipped liners or vessels able to take a wedding ceremony safely, legally and with facilities for such a solemn occasion/Service.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They also need to give the name of the officiant to be sure it is a legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be negotiated in the light of circumstances

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The law does not discourage or prevent couples from getting married if they are serious in their intent.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of marrying in registered places of worship are not prohibitive. It is the added extras that make a marriage so expensive. It depends whether the couple want a 'show' or a life-time commitment.

My husband and I were married in a Methodist Church on a Sunday morning immediately before the Morning Service, with the Congregation as our witnesses, popped across the road for a meal with family in a local restaurant and invited everyone round to our [together/new] home for the evening for a party. Inexpensive, homely, friendly, before God and lasting until his death.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is not the location, it's the commitment that is the issue.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1F-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 17:11:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a public declaration of our lifelong commitment to each other.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is an enormous benefit when I meet different people in different settings for them to know where I stand in this regard. The stability of the marriage state has brought many positive benefits to our children.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have been involved with none.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This may increase cases of fraud.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems a reasonable period.

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the substitute is as qualified as the original officiant.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It sounds reasonable in helping keep marriages genuine.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The alternative is an increase in the likelihood of these vital matters being missed.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a 'Yes' but with the proviso that churches not affiliated to an organisation might make their own nominations. It need not necessarily be the case that a church affiliated to an organisation be unable to make the same nominations.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, so long as the definition of morality is not changed to include things that are in fact immoral. This raises the question of the source of this moral standard, and the traditional answer in Western civilization has been the Bible.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Naming the person may be safer. Internal changes in an organisation may mean people who are quite inappropriate finding themselves able to officiate at marriages, something the organisation may not have intended.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How else can this process be properly supervised?

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation would use its own judgement, but government guidelines would be issued to them, I assume.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so long as the 'mandatory training' does not go against the churches teaching on marriage based on the Bible.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance should be given about what constitutes 'dignity and solemnity'. Otherwise, those engaging in skydiving, in Disney themed parties or beer festivals may feel they are fulfilling this condition. This could seriously undermine the character and seriousness of the marriage contract. It would have grave repercussions in society if marriage was approached in the same way people approach Donald Duck!

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How else would we know?

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This does not stop the General Register Office acting if necessary.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, unless the General Register Office adopts a definition of marriage that is against the traditional teaching of the church as defined in the Bible. They might otherwise de-authorise inappropriately.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as the test of a 'fit and proper person' does not exclude those who uphold the traditional view of marriage as defined in the Bible.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why would there be?

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as 'continuing professional development' does not include an insistence that the traditional teaching of marriage as defined in the Bible be altered.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. Not to express publicly that there are no impediments to marriage may tend to reduce the importance of those impediments in the eyes of those being married, those attending the ceremony and to society generally.
2. This may encourage forms of consent not consistent with the solemn marriage vows undertaken.
3. The consent should be expressed solemnly and personally in the wedding ceremony to underline the seriousness of the event.
4. The marriage contract should be legally binding from the moment the declaratory and contracting words have been publicly uttered at the wedding ceremony to emphasize its gravity and life-changing nature.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The forms chosen may be altogether out of character with the serious, life-long commitment on which the prosperity and happiness of the couple marrying and their family may largely depend.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access to a marriage ceremony is vital in order to allow public scrutiny of the event. This is especially relevant now with the prevalence of forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A ceremony taking place in the local 'watering hole' might be hard put to not imbibe the atmosphere of its surroundings. The seriousness of marriage could be severely compromised.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Great care should be taken since the choice of venue inevitably affects the character of the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access to marriages is vital to ensure public scrutiny. Abuse, especially in the form of forced marriages, is made more difficult.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

He may choose a location altogether unsuitable to the character of a marriage.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be up to them for the reasons already given.

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In Welsh only could present problems later for people speaking only English.

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If no witnesses are present, how do you know the marriage has not been fabricated by the couple and officiant?

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a presumption would tend to devalue marriage.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise the door is opened to charlatan or money-making officiants.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7A-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 17:55:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely marriage that is not recognized by the law is NOT marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

"meaningful and personal to them" ??? Surely marriage is a serious lifetime commitment regulated by law . Legal barriers would surely mean that the marriage should NOT even be considered.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is too serious a matter for people to be able to use it as a legal convenience. Residency is one way to ensure that the process is not being abused

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided adequate safeguards are in place to allow identification rather than impersonation

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Sufficient time and public notice should be given for objections to be raised. Bans (I believe) take 3 weeks or more. This should be an absolute minimum

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

How could you be sure that coercion was not being used unless proper in-person interviews are held?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on the safeguards in place governing who qualifies as an officiant

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to previous qn

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should also be published where the applicants live

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes - it is important if a religious service is involved that it should be clear what limitations/restrictions are required consistent with Christian beliefs

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes - why not?

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this should also presume that the officiant is an appropriately qualified person

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings have civil (i.e. community) implications

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In a society where morals and integrity are continually being challenged a single officer may be open to bribery etc

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not REQUIRED to officiate in situations which may offend their conscience

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that English law (not Sharia) governs the code and form of words describing the contract

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Secular "belief" is simply religion in which man is God

Please share your views below:

An organization which does not acknowledge that its beliefs are equivalent to "religion" is self deluded and incorrectly described

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is too vague. Either we have a defined view of marriage or not. This could be used by any despotic government either to oppress those whose moral views require a high view of marriage or to allow marriages which do not carry the requirement for a life-time commitment to monogamous love and support for each other (e.g. Sharia)

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Too vague. Define "fit and proper"

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should not exclude the provision for suitable fees to be required - perhaps regulated and equalized across the system

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage isn't a "business"

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Vagueness seems to dominate these proposals. A minimum standard for "dignity" and "solemnity" needs to be acknowledged and defined. The marriage "service" should not be degraded into a form of personal or collective entertainment.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to previous qn

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The organization itself may have a low view of marriage

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would depend on whether the Govt would insist on practices which contravene the conscience of the organization to which the officiant belongs

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A personal declaration AT THE TIME is required to cover changes which may have arisen after their initial declaration

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This does not guarantee dignity nor solemnity

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Hymns and songs

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Those who come to acknowledge that a vow before Almighty God is different from a mere half-hearted promise made before men should be allowed to indicate their greater commitment at a later date if they wish

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public (societal) contract which should not be hidden from public view

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would undermine the stated requirement for dignity and solemnity

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

The choice of location should not limit public access nor undermine the requirement for dignity and solemnity. Some of the examples quoted above would clearly not be appropriate

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public (societal) contract and should not be entered into secretly

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of choice and consistency of expression in making the contract

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless there are clear guidelines as to the sort of venues and arrangements which are "suitable"

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Vague again!! What minimum standards are proposed for "safe" and "dignified"

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What's the point if the advice can be ignored. This is just stupid

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

"optional" ??? What's the point?

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

"able to have"?? Surely SHOULD HAVE

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What other contract in law would not require the above?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would depend on the circumstances which resulted in non cohabitation. Unless unavoidable circumstances prevent cohabitation the failure to do so would imply a sham

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that they CONTRACT to continue to live in a state of marriage - involving some legally recognized document

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some form of acknowledged consent to prevent the abuse of inheritance etc

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Such events will clearly restrict the "public" nature of the event

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be fixed not variable

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I doubt that the current law discourages marriage. It may discourage marriages which are sham, coerced, or flippantly entered into.

The proposals seem to be designed to mask the removal of the serious nature of a life-long commitment through the use of vague terms which could be manipulated in law

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Make anything easier and it will be seen as a benefit by those who are not prepared to enter the contract with the required level of commitment. The end result will be to degrade the institution of marriage and the significance of the contract

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



Are these proposals simply to be evaluated by the number of extra marriages whether or not they are contracted with due commitment??

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF73-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 18:13:57

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Personal response

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Better to keep face to face as better protection.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No; there can be several churches with relevant connections with the couple.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Entirely reasonable that the Established Church's procedues are recognised in this way.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Depends on who defines "public policy" and "morality": should not be excluded for disagreeing with the prevailing culture of the Government of the day.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes if the training and standing of the office holder is clear and verifiable.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Better not to make a career out of being an officiant, with the attendant temptations.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q27.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitions of "dignity" and "solemnity" need to be clarified. They need to include the wider social significance of marriage and the weightiness of a life long commitment.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should still be core words for the two to say to each other in person and in public at the wedding ceremony which should themselves be a way of expressing the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. There is ample scope for additional and personalised statements or celebrations.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q42: there should be a recognised and consistent core, with scope to add to it if the couple wish. A marriage is a societal act with wider consequences than for just the couple, not just a private deal between two individuals.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is an unclear proposal. If "remains identifiable as a civil ceremony" means that the religious element has to be treated as no more than myth or sentiment then the religious element is not being treated seriously. If it means participants will say things they do not believe that is hypocrisy and devalues the promises being made.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In a culture with many religious positions some couples want to confirm their vows in a religious ceremony even if, for various reasons, they have the legal ceremony in a civil context. Their religious freedom to do so should be respected.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage has a societal dimension and should be open and transparent.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of marriage should be reflected in rules about suitable venues.

Please share your views below:

Marriages should take place indoors in suitable venues reflecting dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Being publicly accessible reinforces the need and significance of the marriage being a societal not a private event.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Confusing religious and non-religious devalues religious belief.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need rules to demonstrate suitable for the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is too weak. The solemnity and social significance of marriage needs to be expressed as well.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

General Register Office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In person ceremonies remain important regardless of the wider situation.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should also name the officiant as for land-based ceremonies.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF71-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 18:16:22

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in the presence of a registrar in a church setting

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our son's planned wedding could not go ahead, but their priority was for the marriage to take place. The legal requirements were conducted with 10 people in a registry office and a religious ceremony was conducted by a pastor later the same day. A celebration with the intended number of guests will take place when possible.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For many couples the religious ceremony is the essence of the wedding. Not all churches have their own qualified registrar and this would impose a two-part ceremony (to the detriment of both services). This is what happened to my son and his (now) wife as a result of Covid restrictions. It was tolerable in an emergency but should not become the norm.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The phrase "contrary to public policy or morality" is too vulnerable to current "orthodoxy", which itself can be hijacked by groups setting out to promote their own self-interest.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For many of us, marriage is a serious and solemn undertaking, and those conducting it should be of the same mind. Nor is it something where commercial interests should be allowed to demean the event by allowing self-indulgent frivolities to be introduced in pursuit of profit.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn undertaking, not to be entered into casually, which a recognised formal declaration helps to emphasize.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are many ways already that a wedding can be personalised without allowing the potential to demean and trivialise the dignity of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings have traditionally been public/community events, not conducted privately or in secret. Public awareness and recognition of the event ensures a propriety and legitimacy, not least in guarding against inappropriate or forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who decides what is "dignified and safe". This seems an opportunity to push the boundaries to include venues that many would regard as far from dignified, or even unsafe. Is this yet another way to undermine the solemnity of "Marriage", as if it weren't under enough threat already?



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7W-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 18:31:19

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree because some churches do not have an authorised person to officiate and this change would make them unable to hold weddings. Also it seems to make an unnecessary division between the role of church and state. I do not think that widening this divide would be helpful for churches.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

While this appears a reasonable suggestion I do not agree with it. I would be concerned about the unintended consequences of such a policy. For example the wording "contrary to public policy" is not very specific. It could result in organisations like churches falling foul of this law if they were deemed to fall under this category. I would propose a more objective test like actually breaking the law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that allowing independent officiates to apply and be registered risks undermining the status of marriage. It is better that this role be limited to religious ministers or trained registrars rather than opening this role to those who may potentially hold very different views of marriage than have traditionally and historically been held.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that changing the wording of the marriage ceremony and not specifying the way in which consent to be married is to be given Would have the effect of undermining the seriousness of the marriage ceremony. Without using the current prescribed wording of responses it is easy to see how the act of marriage could be reduced to something very trivial depending on the individual's choices of wording. Such changes will not serve to maintain the significance of marriage in our culture and would see that as a very retrograde step

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree because such a personalised approach will tend to result in ceremonies which will not reflect the seriousness of the decision and the commitment being made. While it would appear good to have a choice and to personalise one's ceremony, withdrawing any requirements for the nature of the ceremony will tend to result in ceremonies which devalue marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that weddings should be seen to open and transparent and for it be made obvious that couples are marrying before their community. This reinforces the message that marriage is not secret but a statement that is made publicly. Such a practice also protects against bigamy and forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that there is a danger in allowing weddings to take place in any place as the wording of dignified and safe lacks precision and is not specific enough. There is again a danger that the sanctity and dignity of the wedding service if there is not more guidance than stated in the proposed statement.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF74-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 18:56:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

John

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All interviews should be in person,!

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should be continued.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not everyone has a computer, i would have thought it should be obvious to everybody by now.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided those to be married agree to the one chosen

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Bans published in the UK should be acknowledged throughout the UK

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This is unnecessary.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Why is this thought to be needed?

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Church weddings are the business of the church not the civil authorities.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars  
to register weddings, as they do not have their own  
authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

“contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy.

The 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There are clear advantages to changing the system. Many churches that do not own their own premises but worship in shared buildings like community centres or schools cannot currently hold weddings in those venues. But the danger is that removing the restrictions opens the door to inappropriate venues being used.

There is a serious concern that it is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed?

Please share your views below:

Where is the dignity and solemnity found in these suggested venues?

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7C-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 19:08:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current system works and the default position should be the existing. It is for the proposer to demonstrate why change is better.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The current system works and the default position should be the existing. It is for the proposer to demonstrate why change is better.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The current system works and the default position should be the existing. It is for the proposer to demonstrate why change is better.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

As existing - widespread notice is beneficial

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current system works and the default position should be the existing. It is for the proposer to demonstrate why change is better.

Local advertisement and notices and announcements are vital - and online should only be an adjunct.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposed change would affect my church - adversely.

The current system with a civil registrar is proven and the default position should be the existing. It is for the proposer to demonstrate why change is better.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Contrary to public policy or morality is too vague and cannot be defined properly. The law must remain as definite as it is now. "Religious" appears to be used as a pejorative or negative term and discriminated against.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Untrained but paid officiants would both trivialise and commercialise - Las Vegas style.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The Marriage Act 1949 sets out specific wording which is generally known and accepted:

The current system works and the default position should be the existing. It is for the proposer to demonstrate why change is better.

Marriage is a public matter, of declaration before society and this must be maintained.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Legal wedding ceremonials are more important than personalisation of words - these may be an addition - or in the wedding speeches afterwards of course.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a matter of privacy but is a declaration to society and there should be no unreasonable restrictions on access. Also objections - say to bigamy - should be allowed to be aired in a semi-public venue.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The answer is that to question 47 - marriage is not a matter of privacy but is a declaration to society and there should be no unreasonable restrictions on access. Also objections - say to bigamy - should be allowed to be aired safely in a semi-public venue.

For these reasons - the main legal wedding ceremony must be in a building registered for the purpose.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7N-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 19:12:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have been involved in a discussion with members of the public regarding a "marriage" they attended in which both they and the couple thought they were attending a legal marriage ceremony and it was not until the marriage broke down that they became aware that the marriage was not legal. The celebrant involved did not make anything clear during the process or ceremony that it was not a legal contract and the couple did not make additional enquiries beyond what the celebrant had said.

I have also had conversations with a person who had travelled with her husband to a venue, within E&W, to attend an outside marriage ceremony in a woodland area without a structure, which they had been led to believe was a legal civil ceremony, neither the couple nor the celebrant made it clear to those assembled that it was a celebration and not a legal marriage.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a registration officer responsible for co-ordinating ceremony bookings, the whole process has been stressful and often confusing for both the service and couples. The guidance we received was often contradictory which made it even harder for staff to cope with the process of rearranging hundreds of ceremonies. A delay between what the media report and our official information can often be misinterpreted. We have had to deal with many different concerns and we had to totally change our office procedures to deal with the volume. The couple who have decided to stay with getting married during these challenging times have in the main been wonderful and appreciated the time and effort we put into making their day work even if it was not what they had first anticipated their day would look like. Speaking as a registrar the local authority venues and approved venues have been assessed thoroughly and Covid guidelines employed in order that people have felt safe to hold their ceremonies. At the ceremonies overall people have respected and abided by the guidelines. We have dealt with a myriad of couples' issues and it became quite clear during the pandemic that what a wedding meant to one couple was totally different to another. In the early days of lockdown we spent much of our time moving weddings to alternative dates over the next two years. This has continued as lockdown and restrictions have increased. Some couples have wanted to rearrange for the earliest possible date and were willing to sacrifice the reception/party/honeymoon etc, other couples felt that without the reception and a large number of guests, they wouldn't feel their day was complete; a third set were somewhere in the middle. Since lockdown our ceremonies have been almost exclusively for couples who just wanted to get married, who are grateful to have their ceremonies despite restrictions and in some cases have said that the restrictions have helped them make decisions which were difficult before lockdown ie who to invite and who not to invite. The content of ceremonies is brief as per guidelines, however as a registrar conducting the ceremonies I have found that there is a greater chance of engaging with couples and guests and that the ceremonies themselves have become more intimate and meaningful.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would simplify matters for residents of E&W as they would be able to give notice anywhere within E&W. This could also simplify matters for British subjects living/working outside of the country. Foreign nationals would be another matter; we believe some sort of visa should still be required. If you are proposing a two-part notice online and then face to face, this would reduce the time needed in the country.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could be open to abuse but having face to face appointments at a later stage could / would hopefully negate that, but a robust system to assure that the person filling in the online form is actually the person presenting will need to exist. This two-part procedure may start the waiting period but if they still have to attend with documents to prove correct information, we argue it would be no quicker for couples. Identify fraud, mental capacity, sham and forced marriage all need to be taken into account.

#### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

The extension of the 15 day waiting period to 28 / 70 day waiting period was due to immigration concerns. Those will surely have to be addressed before any further reduction is made. If the proposal is to start the waiting period (whatever that might be) online then the "in-person" interview should be around 7 days before the earliest date they can marry in order to give time to come back again if something is wrong.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

A movement to remote interview will again need to be very robust in order that the interviewer is confident that the interviewee is who they say they are and that they are not under any type of duress. Coercion within the situation for sham marriages or capacity to marry can often only be gauged by face to face meetings. If the interview was remote a registrar may not be able to determine any of this. It should not be up to a registrar to say "there is a problem, you will need to come in in person". It should be one or the other for clarity for all.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If the notices go online this should not be a problem if followed up by a rigorous personal interview.



Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree that we need a more widespread medium for the notices to be displayed but wherever that is it must be advertised and available to all. We will also need a robust system for being notified should problems/objections occur and those submitting an objection should know the seriousness of doing so.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would make sense.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be far better to name the venue as we do now and then there would be no need to issue further paperwork for a change of officiant. This would save resources.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if it was the venue/location and officiant for the area would be able to attend.

Please share your views below:

No but we struggle to see what that might be.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, universal civil preliminaries would be the same process for everyone.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be published in the same way as for civil notices, through a more widespread public system.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If we are looking at simplifying the processes then this should be the same publication as notices for civil marriages and to make it similar still through universal civil preliminaries.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Universal civil preliminaries.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Universal civil preliminaries.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Universal civil preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As registration officers the service has provided this for almost 200 years. There have been changes over time and the registration service has always shown a resilience and ability to adapt in order to deliver a service which is seen as part of a national measure. Training and accountability are key.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, we see no reason for registration officers to be involved in a religious setting if your proposals go through and the clergy will no longer need to complete a marriage entry. Though we do wonder how the definition of civil and religious weddings will be delineated if all officiants can lead ceremonies which have religious content as requested by couples if/when that choice is open to them.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Currently one person deals with the legal paperwork (officiant) and the other conducts the ceremony. If it changes to one person this will open up our ability to attend more ceremonies at popular times but it may also result in staff raising health and safety and wellbeing concerns ie lone working.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the one required to attend has appropriate training and continues with professional development as registrars do now. If the registration service are required to train the clergy (as previously suggested with the schedule system) the service should receive appropriate recompense.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, but there will need to be a strong process for selecting/training/governing.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as this is not abused.

Please share your views below:

Yes, there needs to be a criteria for a non-religious belief organisation to preclude abuse of the system - any group not meeting the criteria should be excluded.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keeping in line with current religious buildings/organisations would make sense as a minimum requirement.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This would underline the importance of the marriage state and enabling them could lead to abuse of the system.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Nomination by office does not necessarily mean they are suitable officiants therefore by named individual who is clearly trained and assessed would seem to be more relevant.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office is geared up for this sort of public record/list so it would make sense, but a similar format to the GMC website would work well also with an obligation for the organisation to submit regular lists of their officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We would prefer this did not happen as we are aware of issues of quality and reliability of independent celebrants. Having an official list on the GRO website gives a "go to" place for the public to see who they can confidently hire, however we strongly feel that the registrars offer an excellent, trusted and valued service and would wish to continue. If the schedule system requires one person attending then registrars will have additional trained staff available for marriages. An independent celebrant list for the public to access may be the way forward so that confusion is limited.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, registrars already in post have to be regularly accessed and monitored and it would not be fair for any other organisation/individual not to have to do the same. Quality standards for customers and approved venues are essential.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this happens the General Register Office or some other body will need to make sure that regular checks, training and monitoring are done and that there is a robust system for the public to feedback on.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes they should be officiating as part of the organisation and it should be on a remuneration agreed by the organisation, not by the individual.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be prohibited from acting with a conflict of interest but it would be hard to prohibit them from charging what they want but having a publicised list of product and pricing as we do as a service would give the public a yardstick to gauge by.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no conflict of interest, which is the same when registrars are employed.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is a major part of the responsibility of the person conducting the ceremony and should remain so, with the public's ability to complain, comment or compliment the service received.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is what registrars have now and it has to be the same for everyone so that bias does not occur.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they are independent it would be hoped that it would fall to the General Register Office and if attached to an organisation then that organisation should share that responsibility, but they should also be accountable to a body.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes the General Register Office should oversee the nominated officiants and have to final say.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, this would leave one body responsible for any official lists and the General Register Office would then be in a fit position to de-authorise if deemed necessary.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they meet the required standard, there should be no timescale but if they wish to leave/retire/stop delivering then their governing body should be informed - GRO official lists etc. Passing on of any registration to another person should not be permissible.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes and regular inspections would highlight such irregularities.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would bring marriage in line with civil partnerships but the witness and the officiant need to be clear at what point consent is given as there is a need for consent to be specific and irrefutable during the actual ceremony and not before, in order that a change of mind is undisputable.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an agreement between the couple and the officiant, however we recommend that a timescale/point that no further changes can be made should be established. Who has the final say if the couple's choice is something which the officiant does not think seemly or appropriate as this can often be down to personal choice or interpretation.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but how does this fit with the simplicity lobby?

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How will the distinction be made? At the moment it is quite clear that no religious content is included in a civil marriage - it is one or the other.

Please share your views below:

This could help couples who are torn between civil and religious ceremonies. However, whose role/responsibility is it - should it be to specify that it is or is not acceptable?

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This happens already in a lot of cases whether on the same site or different. If there is a definite break between the two and it is clear that the couple are married at the end of the civil and not the religious then it should not be a problem. The point which is troubling is when couples try and deceive guests by trying to pass off a religious blessing as the legal marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The facility to object must be available along with a clear and accessible alternative option available. The ability to object is also an important part of the marriage process but can only be made if the relevant information is accessible to the public.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In theory this opens up a number of options which have never been available in E&W before but we must not lose sight of the legalities and dignity of the occasion and the fall-back position should weather be inclement. Would an indoor location be included on the schedule or does it not matter as long as the officiant agrees? Who will be responsible for the health and safety of everyone attending and moving from one place to another. Is the LA best placed to look at this beforehand?

Please share your views below:

Outdoors - A consideration to noise, weather, accessibility and health and safety must be made.

Inland waters - If the vessel was moored at a dockside it would not be a problem, if it was in the middle of the lake how would the officiant leave? Again who controls health and safety?

In the air - Consideration of health and safety for the officiant and guests would need to be considered.

In private homes - We believe a strict capacity rule would need to apply. The home owner at a cost to themselves should be able to apply for a day or temporary licence for the premises to be used, allowing for some health and safety checks/criteria to be governed by the LA.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If an opportunity to object still applies then public accessibility needs to be in place.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

(1) A clear distinction is needed unless there has been some historical connection in the past.

(2) Keep as separate as possible unless they share a building.

(3) As above.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiant is a Local Authority employee they may have a criteria that they need to work to. If they are not, who would govern the officiant's responsibility for minimum standards and to be mindful of things which can go wrong? Establishing agreed minimum quality standards is critical.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Ahead of a ceremony this decision should be reached by a local registration officer; on the day the officiant should be able to insist amendments are made or refuse to officiate, should anything become apparent that would prevent proceedings from being safe and/or dignified.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would be easy for the General Register Office to set guidelines on the dignified locations but a hard task to put together guidelines that cover every type of outside and inside venue around E&W for health and safety purposes. Local authorities would be better placed overseeing the implementation of local guidelines.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The process should be mandatory again for regulatory purposes.

Please share your views below:

Local authority/local registration service as it works so well already should be responsible.

Similar to the existing process with the LA but with some improvement, such as online application for a fee by client who agree to a set criteria with the knowledge of penalties if they deviate from agreement.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- (1) this happens already
- (2) this should be done at the publication of the schedule to avoid mistakes and abuse of the system.
- (3) not after the ceremony but at any pre-ceremony interview numbers 1 and 3 could be altered and initialled but number 2 needs to be on the schedule before the ceremony.

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree the option should remain as it does at the moment to have the choice.

### Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As the registration service already have this with RON and have been producing historical data for almost 200 years in one form or another, we would query why another electronic system would be required, unless it is to replace RON fully? Experience when checking church registers shows that clergy are not as assiduous in preparation of their registers. We have concerns that celebrants would not maintain the standards Registrars provide now. It should be remembered that registration is also the preparation of historical documents.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, that any one of the above would tender the marriage void.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- (1) agree if the mistake is minor.
- (2) no - witnesses are a vital part of the ceremony - they are signing to say the proceedings for the consent have been carried out correctly - a marriage should not take place without the witnesses.
- (3) disagree.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes these are all basic requirements.

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree but it should not be an idle threat, people who do this cause misery.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

All current processes are tried and tested and work efficiently.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, one party only as at present give notice but both interviewed prior to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The same preliminaries and criteria without the Registrar General's involvement would be even quicker but would still need an authority's (SR) approval to produce the schedule for marriage in order to pass the waiting period.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Terminally ill people go through the normal process because they are aware they have 6-12 months left and they are able and want to do things in the normal way. It is only those who have a short time - days/hours left to go the RGL route so it does not need to be 12 months validity. Sadly the ill person has often died before the marriage is registered onto RON.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would depend on if location was part of the schedule and if it was, could it be amended if this was the case, 6 months would work better and would make for easier organisation of dates to attend the prison or another if they had moved. Hospital and housebound could be 12 months.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

(1) Totally agree would save money all round and reduce the stress levels.

(2) Disagree, it could lead to more sham and forced marriages.



(3) Disagree - our experience is that couples want their day, with family and friends. It also leaves open the possibility of forced marriages to increase. It could be difficult to maintain dignity and solemnity - and again identifying sham and forced marriages would be a problem.

(4) Disagree - this would create unnecessary complications.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Excellent idea if facilitated by senior crew members if all relevant legal preliminaries are completed.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Excellent idea if facilitated by senior crew members if all relevant legal preliminaries are completed.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some point of reference, how would the couple know in advance that an officiant would be available on that ship at that date in the future? Would it be booked with the shipping company? Will all captains become officiants whether they want to or not?

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

(1) Agree that those at option 1 only should be allowed in order to keep track of who is an officiant by position in the crew.

(2) No

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Agree they should be under the authority of the RG.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time limit because what is "reasonably possible"? Even if it is a month, it should be made clear to the couple there is no certificate without the schedules return. Who will be responsible for keeping track of marriages that take place?

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree but this must be a sensible amount possibly calculated by mileage as well as time for notices and marriage appointments. Our experience is that a nationally set cost recovery fee does not always cover all eventualities or deliver services in a large rural authority.

### Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

(1) A realistic fee set with a proviso for the superintendent registrar to reduce the fee in cases of hardship. Quite often the purpose of these marriages is for assets to be kept between them and there is no hardship.

(2) No - terminal illness is not subject to financial circumstances with proviso for the superintendent registrar to reduce the fee in cases of hardship.

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree it should be a national fee and this option needs to be available for low income families and couples who just want to marry with no fuss.

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree that the local authority should set the fee on a cost recovery basis.

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree as it is now.

### Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree an hourly rate of attending the marriage would not take into account all the backroom time spent on the phone/emails with the couple. The investment of the individual officer in their attire, the travel expenses, the additional often weekend extended work hours. The services investment in electronic, online systems to give the couples more freedom to manage their ceremony, the putting together of what will be an individual ceremony for each couple will be time consuming and therefore costly. All of these are things and more need to be considered when setting fees and this is what we do within our LA and still remain competitive.

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but we believe that if couples have greater flexibility in choosing what they want within their ceremony less people will feel the need to have additional discretionary service or an enhanced ceremony. The actual ceremony fee is a very small part of the overall cost of the wedding. The cost of the ceremony has little impact on the higher cost decisions couples make when designing their wedding.

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

(1) This is contentious to all other than the couple involved in our experience. The couples are surprised at the current fee of £15 (below cost recovery) and expect it to cost more.

(2) Disagree, it should stay as it is - this is a premium service, time-wise, at more of a cost to the LA as they pick up the cost for time and travel. Couples often expect to pay more.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree there should be a registration fee of some kind which reflects the responsibility of the position. We also think that there should be a yearly assurance report to the General Register Office for these individuals to make which reflects the importance of the job they are doing.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

(1) Absolutely not, with 26 years' experience we have not come across a couple who were unable to marry. There are some who do not have the correct documentation and can feel frustrated to supply those documents.

(2) No, whether people marry or not is a personal decision not dictated by options available. It is only once the decision to commit to marriage has been made that preferences as to ceremony options come into play.

Having boundaries and criteria that have to be met give value to the end result and at the end of the day it is the legal marriage which is important. Where couples get married nowadays is more the issue rather than the content or who performs it. Couples continue to look for "different" and meaningful places to them. So whilst proposals for outside ceremonies/at home/at sea/in the air may meet with expectations of couples, it is doubtful they will necessarily lead to a huge increase in the number of couples who are legally married. Nowadays couples focus on the event from waking up in the morning for the photographer to arrive to capture the whole day, to the last dance in the evening. Many couples feel it is a celebration of their union.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

(1) Register Office weddings should be a low cost option for minimum attendees. Register Office ceremonies are primarily for those who are unable to afford a big day or who wish to spend money on other elements of their wedding.

(2) This should take into account staff time, travel time and costs as well as the administration, organising, booking and generally dealing with the couple and their booking. We benchmark against our neighbouring districts in an attempt to keep costs affordable for our residents in both approved premise marriages and licensing costs in this LA and those who decide to come to our district to marry. Compared with the cost of the premises and other services the couple engage, the ceremony fee is still a reasonable cost although couples on low incomes can find it prohibitive and prefer to get married in LA ceremony rooms to allow for their budget.

(3) If the law stays as it is the fee needs to be set nationally.

(4) This should take into account the same costs incurred at approved premise ceremonies but also factor in assessments for health and safety and other purposes, which should require a pre-visit by local authority / registration staff.

(5) These should be costed at an approved premise fee and include a RO marriage fee. The couples who wish for these locations do not usually object to the separate legally recognised ceremony which is £57.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

(1) Register Office marriages already make a loss for the LA as they are at the moment. We see no added benefit to couples, except in ceremony content.

(2) There would be no savings to couples due to the fact that they would have to meet the costs of having their proposed venue approved for health and safety purposes and other factors. The point to bear in mind is that anyone officiating at a wedding should be aware of the nature and layout of the venue in advance and be cognisant of any associated risks.

(3) Separating the legal from the celebration only makes things more costly.

We do not think the costs under the new proposals will necessarily differ from costs today. Couples choose the type of ceremony they want. The proposals seek to enhance that choice. We do not think current approved premises will necessarily reduce their prices because there is no need for a pre-approved process as the more ceremonies they do, the less that cost becomes per ceremony. The chance of any of this costing the couple less is realistically low.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

(1) We have recently worked on figures for the past 3 years' worth of ceremonies and did a calculation using the cost of a 3 year licence fee for an approved premise and the number of premises we have. The result was £20.26 per ceremony undertaken by the approved premises over the 3 year period. We do not feel that this is exorbitant for venues. The current approval cost is the same whatever the venue. This means that smaller venues often decide not to licence for weddings as they may not have enough ceremonies to warrant the cost. Venues with high numbers of ceremonies benefit much more as the cost of licensing per ceremony is vastly reduced. It would be much fairer to have some sort of "per ceremony" basis for the cost of licensing ie by adding it to the ceremony fee.

(2) We review annually our staffing levels against the previous year and the current bookings for the coming year and recruit accordingly. We also regularly review our cost recovery in order to make sure that we are maintaining the correct level of fees taking into account the benchmarking of neighbouring districts too. In the East Riding of Yorkshire there is plenty of availability of registration officers to attend weddings.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

(1) If an approved premises licence is not needed this would be an obvious saving to a venue. However such venues may consider the current cost of such a licence worthwhile when considering the dilution of their business potential caused by the scope for couples to marry practically anywhere. The fact that venues who are licenced for marriage mean they go onto a national database and are part of LA service websites as a place licenced for marriages, this does navigate couples towards them. The registrars and the venues have a very good relationship, it is very much about trust and that has been highlighted during the present pandemic situation. When we have supported them by adding 6 months' free of charge to each venue when they renew their licence. We have also attended each venue and met with their responsible persons to talk about returning to ceremonies and helped with their Covid risk assessments. We have also kept them informed with emails throughout the time so that they know what we have been told by Government and GRO and how that relates to them and couples. None of this would apply if they were not our dedicated approved venues. This will benefit smaller venues where the cost of licensing is prohibitive.

(2) We have no problem with the capacity of registration officers for civil marriages. If the new schedule system changes to just one officer/officiant required per marriage we would have double the capacity of staff for marriages. Whilst we do not think it is necessarily a good idea, if there is only one registration officer required, this would facilitate many more officers to attend weddings at popular times of the day. We review annually our staffing levels to gauge demand.

(3) We feel that there is a risk that the registration service will become the one-stop shop for all issues, advice and support of these venues and organisations. Venues may welcome this but from a registration point of view it could lead to lack of standards unless there is sufficient monitoring of all officiants.

(4) We very much doubt that the numbers will increase by a significant amount once the newness of any change wears off. There are only so many couples who will marry each year, opening up the choice only moves them from somewhere which may have been established to somewhere new - this is a gain for one and a loss for another. If couples want to marry, they will do so regardless of the offer/choice available but changes will not increase the demand year on year as has been seen when approved premise marriages came in - couples moved from the churches to the approved premises. What we need to remember is that there are also couples who like the idea of being part of the history of marriage and the underpinning of the traditional marital state.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Managing income and expenditure for LAs in delivering the registrar service is key as to supporting the local economy, leisure and hospitality sectors so any change needs to enhance this and assist the LA to develop its offer further.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We feel that the loss of the approved venue portfolio will be a backwards step and take away a level of contact, business continuity and support.

The impact on local authorities is that with more independent celebrants they may get reduced income from weddings. We do not feel the proposals will cause a long term rise in the number of weddings every year. The benefits to the local authority would really be if only one registration officer was used at a ceremony as they could then double availability for ceremony attendance - this could possibly increase income but with the influx of independent

ceremonies realistically may not do so. The LA is a trusted brand for couples and we feel that couples may seek redress from the LA if their wedding is not well managed/delivered by an independent celebrant.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

(1) Couples do this already and we have recently had a report drawn up to substantiate this for our own area. We are lucky to attract a great many couples to our area but still do notices of our residents choosing to marry beyond our jurisdiction. People like to travel to an area that means something to them regardless of the cost to support that. Again the marriage ceremony cost is negligent to the cost of the celebrant. We are a very mobile population who is the main see no barrier to travelling to other jurisdictions to get married.

(2) The residency period often causes problems when added to the 28 day waiting period.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

(1) We do not see this will change the travelling already done by couples.

(2) The changes would make a lot of difference and enable couples to travel to this country for a holiday period and be able to marry in that time in an online process had started the waiting period countdown and the residency period was amended in some way.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

(1) Many of the problems would result in a loss of income for local authorities. The worth and volume of the work we have undertaken with venues since 1996 when our first venue came on board would be lost entirely. This would go against our LA principle of "growing the economy" and supporting business. We would lose a stream of income which helps the LA provide the registration service as a whole.

(2) Businesses will lose a very supportive business partner in the LA. They will also have their business base diluted if ceremonies can take place anywhere.

(3) We feel that we will become administrators for all the religious organisations once we move over to a schedule system. This is not sustainable without financial recompense. # (4) We feel that if it is open choice then the need for independent officiants does not exist. The feeding pool will just increase and any form of regulation of the process will become very unwieldy. We cannot help but think that it will be a novelty for couples to use an independent. The registration service which had made the model of marrying other than in a RO or a registered building, works and it works amazingly well. We are respected by our venue colleagues and deliver an outstanding service to our community.

(5) There would not appear to be much scope for a reduction in costs for couples, given the necessity to ensure all venues are safe and fit for purpose. It looks as though the process for couples will get simpler, which is not altogether a bad thing. The cost, as we have said previously, is not down to the cost of the marriage ceremony, it is everything else that couples want to include in their day and we have no control over that. In the article <https://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/blog/how-much-does-an-average-wedding-cost> it states that official venues average cost is £4,354 - the average cost for the East Riding area to attend is £437.50 - about 10% of the venue cost, less than the average of a basic church marriage at £500.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7G-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 19:13:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Other (please state)

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would make the process simpler, but for protection against sham weddings, it is necessary for an in-person interview.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I would suggest 14 days is a reasonable time to allow.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is something serious and although the idea of remote interviews might appeal with the restrictions we are currently under, there are too many opportunities for abuse if this were allowed.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any objection to this as long as it consistent with data protection laws.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is the 'officiant' the person who conducts the wedding, e.g. a minister, or the registrar/authorised person? I have been aware of occasions when a minister is taken ill and another has to step in at short notice, and I suspect this proposal could cause unnecessary headaches at times. I cannot see any problem with the schedule naming the 'officiant' expected but I do not think the wedding should absolutely tied to that person.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are many places of worship currently registered for weddings who have no authorised person and rely on the presence of a registrar. Weddings in such places would not be possible if this provision goes ahead. This is too restrictive.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some religious organisations have some umbrella authority, and others act where individual churches are deemed independent and self-governing. As long as both are included, this should be OK.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This sounds reasonable in principle but 'contrary to public policy or morality' is far too subjective. Whose judgement of 'morality' is to be followed? LGBT activists who think that any two people can marry, or many who hold to the traditional view that marriage is for life between a man and a woman? Though I think the government could exclude organisations whose published aim is the destruction of human life or property, for example.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I feel a bit uneasy about this - persons are normally nominated because of their aptitude for the job, A person in another office cannot be deemed to have this aptitude just because he or she is in the office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At the moment wedding ceremonies are not commercialised, but this proposal could open the door to this and downgrade the seriousness of marriage. This seems a dangerous step to me.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But if officiants are allowed as part of their office, this requirement cannot be enforced.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This implies that independent officiants can make a business out of taking weddings, but religious officiants cannot?

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn contract between two parties and this is not something that should be done lightly. The current requirement for an agreed form of words expressing that contract is absolutely right and should not be capable of being watered down to a meaningless string of words.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There can be variation in the form and ceremony, but there should still be a legally binding vow and with an agreed form of words as at present.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement makes it plain that the wedding is not a private affair, but one that affects society as a whole; it is not something that can or should be hidden.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current restriction to buildings registered for the purpose could be usefully extended, but there should still be limitations to ensure that weddings take place in public, in suitable locations and in keeping with the solemnity and dignity of marriage. The proposal here goes much too far.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Outdoors may be OK, but the other options hide the public nature of a marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure how this fits in with the proposal for weddings to take place anywhere, because if they can, what is an approved location?

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot see any objections to this, though not sure of the reason for it.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly this should be investigated, but perhaps 'should' is too strong a word at present?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see the reasoning behind this, but I think is is going too far.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFTP-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 19:27:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Dr Augur Pearce

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am responding in a personal capacity, though I am a retired legal academic with specialist interest in this field and have engaged with previous government proposals for marriage reform [REDACTED].

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

[REDACTED]

I believe, however (and am working on an academic paper to substantiate this view) that the unsolemnized contract of marriage was not wholly abolished by the Act of 1753, contrary to assumptions made in judicial dicta and other literature, . It remains recognised by the law as 'marriage in the sight of God', though its material legal consequences were reduced in 1753 and have since been further reduced. It follows that some of what the Commission probably means by 'marriages not recognised by the law' are in fact recognised, in the sense that that the parties to them have contracted 'er verba de praesenti, do not commit fornication, and that copulation on their part with a third party is adultery. The law no longer attaches spiritual sanctions to these offences, except in the case of clerks in holy orders; but that does not mean that the unsolemnized contract has lost its objective character. (Members of the royal family who contract marriage without solemnization can still be ordered to solemnize in facie ecclesiae.)

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:



N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The enlargement of registration districts since 1836 makes this requirement now largely meaningless. It made some sense as the equivalent of the ecclesiastical preliminary of banns published in the parish of residence, but even then only if people aware of impediments were as likely to visit the register office and check its noticeboard as they were to attend Sunday worship in their parish church.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes good sense.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

An adequate period for the registration staff to assess the interview transcript and seek any necessary advice.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. An in-person interview enables the interviewee to speak freely, whereas an online interview may be influenced by a person out of camera view. Concerns which should be investigated may thus be concealed.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consideration should also be given, in 'risk of harm' cases, to directing notice of the proposed marriage to be sent to certain people who appear to pose no such risk, but have a good chance of knowing of impediments.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of clergy (an expression used in my responses only for clerks in holy orders) and the nominated officiants of religious (and belief) organisations, I believe it should be sufficient for the schedule to identify a category of officiant. For example, a person proposing to marry in a Welsh building shared for worship by the United Reformed Church and a Baptist church should be able to specify 'any officiant approved pursuant to statute on the nomination of the URC or of a church of the Baptist Union of Wales'. A humanist proposing to have a humanist wedding on the neach should be able to specify 'any officiant approved pursuant to statute on the nomination of Humanists UK'. For a register office wedding, 'the Superintendent Registrar or any registrar of the registration district within which the ceremony takes place' An independent officiant, however, should indeed be named as an individual in the schedule.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This will not be necessary if my suggestion above is followed. A couple opting for an independent celebrant must take the risk of that person being ill on the day, though the financial implications could be covered by insurance.

Please share your views below:

No. See above.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns in the parishes of residence seldom produce any objector with knowledge of impediments, and are therefore of little value.

If a party is 16 or 17, then under the present law a parent or guardian can only prevent the marriage by 'forbidding the banns' at the time of publication. If that is to remain the law, then it would make more sense for publication to be required in the parish(es) where the party's parents reside. Parents of such children would still absent themselves from Sunday worship in the parish church at their own risk; but they would have a better chance than now of preventing an unsuitable match.

I see no advantage of publication in the intended marriage venue if the parties are not parishioners.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I should have no objection to these proposals.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I should have no objection to this, and if it becomes a requirement it should apply also to special licences.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I should prefer to restore the obligation on parishioners to attend their parish churches on Sundays in its pre-1689 comprehensive scope. If that were enforced, banns would remain a practical means of publicising parties' intentions.

In its absence, though, I do not see banns as achieving their original aim. Early pastoral contact can equally be achieved by requiring a longer notice period for parish church marriage and empowering the parish minister to require meetings for instruction. (Provisions appearing only in canons are generally unenforceable against the laity, so I should recommend such requirements to be made by Act or Measure.) The ecclesiastical licence procedure is merely a dispensation from the obligation of calling banns, so it would disappear if banns themselves were abolished.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but since there appears to be doubt expressed in some legal literature as to the right of parishioners to marry in their parish churches (with and the concomitant obligation of the parish minister to officiate or secure an assistant curate or some other clerk to do so), I should like to see this stated clearly in statute for the avoidance of doubt.

I realise that your Terms of Reference exclude any consideration of the merits of this rule; but you are using it as a justification to treat clerks in holy orders differently from other officiants; and to my mind it is the only convincing reason to do so.

If that rule were ever to be abrogated, there would be no reason to continue the automatic recognition of clergy as officiants.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes; but the Commission should bear in mind that the relevant governing authority is not always a national body. In the United Reformed Church, for example, the church meeting of each local church is its governing authority when the question is registration of the church building for same sex marriage. Since the local church also determines (either in the church meeting or the elders' meeting) who should be the 'authorised person' for its building, it could also determine who officiates at marriage formation under the new proposals. In the URC, marriage is not considered a sacrament and a minister of Word and sacrament is not required to officiate at its formation. The church meeting could therefore nominate its current 'authorised person' to be an officiant. If that is not what the Commission intends, more thought may be needed here.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes - but I am happy with the examples given in the consultation. It should be possible for individual organisations to be proscribed by the Secretary of State, not so much to add to the categories as to determine conclusively that an organisation falls within one of the categories.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes; and see answer to question 24b.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. That would require public authorities - and in cases of dispute, the courts - to take cognisance of the internal polity of such bodies, which (including my own, the United Reformed Church) are in law no more than private clubs.

(The Church of England is an exception so long as it continues to be governed by the ecclesiastical common law, by Crown and Parliament, and to operate as the national religious service. If it were ever to be governed wholly autonomously, there would no longer be a reason for any such distinction from other belief groups. However, even the Church of England might welcome the certainty given by a register of names: given that the 1949 Act refers to a 'clerk in holy orders of the Church of England', and there might be borderline cases of doubt as to whom that description covers: as when a priest ordained in Barbados or Scotland receives permission to officiate in an English diocese, a deacon ordained in London receives priestly ordination in the Roman Catholic Church, or an English priest is disqualified for ten years under a disciplinary sentence).

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is another reason for against excluding the C of E from the general provision. If, for example, the Methodist Church cannot simply place all its presbyters on the register as such, but must consider each one's 'fitness and propriety' in the marriage context, why should clergy of the C of E be treated differently?

This would mean, however, that if the Vicar of a C of E parish were not found 'fit and proper', but did not have a full-time assistant curate, there would need to be a requirement (as in the Matrimonial Causes Act 1857) that he allow another clerk to officiate at marriages in the parish church, so that his ineptitude did not prejudice the rights of his parishioners.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be power to limit fees, exercisable by statutory instrument, but it should not initially be exercised. If it transpired that independent officiants were taking advantage of couples by fees that were exorbitant in comparison to other officiant categories, then the power could be exercised at a later date.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is up to the nominating organisation. If Humanists UK trust an Orthodox priest to lead non-religious ceremonies, or the Presbyterian Church of Wales knows that one of its ministers gets a part-time income from such ceremonies, then the decision to allow such duplication should be up to them. But it should perhaps be required that any person already officiating in one capacity should disclose that fact before accepting nomination in any other.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But guidance should truly be guidance - there should be no legal obligation to do more than, at most, 'have regard' to it. Anything more binding should appear in legislation.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An officiant who ceases to reside in England & Wales (or perhaps is non-resident for over a year) should probably lose authorisation.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As to 'Anglican groups', no legislation on marriage formation should affect the principle that the English public liturgy is a matter for Parliament, though generally delegated to the General Synod at present under the C of E (Worship and Doctrine) Measure 1976. Nor should it further limit (nor empower anything short of primary legislation to limit) the right of every parishioner to marry in his parish church. The Church of England is in that respect not a 'religious group'. A similar parishioners' right exists in Wales and although they are officers of a voluntary society, the ministers of the Church in Wales are bound by the concomitant obligation, in recognition of the control given to that society over Welsh public ecclesiastical assets.

As to Jewish and Quaker groups, I agree,

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I believe the general principle set out at the start of q.45 is sufficient.

The religious content in the marriage service was always peripheral to the witnessing of the couple's consents to take one another as spouse. They do that in the sight of God whether a minister of religion is present or not. The giving of a ring by the bridegroom is not an exclusively religious symbol (and the 'exchange' of rings is mere modern tokenism).

The main element which, in the past, led high church opinion in episcopal churches to wish a priest (rather than a deacon) to officiate at marriage solemnization was the 'nuptial blessing', based on the view that only a priest can bless. Fully reformed churches tend to recognise that 'blessing' is only a prayer for God's blessing, which any believer can utter.

Readings from scripture and its exposition in teaching on the nature of marriage are also religious elements, but may well resonate with the couple's understanding. The worry expressed by Professor Watkin that a civil solemnization could become a service led by a layman does not worry me in the slightest: it is only high churchmen with an exalted view of holy orders whom this would make would seriously uncomfortable. The real test of whether the civil ceremony has become 'religious' in all but name must be the overriding impression given by the ceremony taken as a whole. The officiant will have a good overview of this and his agreement that the 'package' is acceptable should be enough.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I never regarded this as necessary except for the C of E, in which no service can be held without some legislative authority. Other tolerated denominations have always been able to hold whatever services they wish, so long as they don't purport to be the solemnization of marriage (in which case they must be valid solemnizations complying with the law); and a service in this context could never so purport.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the consultation that this has nothing to do with allowing access for potential objectors. It was a carrying-over of the open doors provision from the Toleration Act 1688, on the basis that dissenters were ipso facto unreliable and might use a closed meeting for worship for political sedition. It was not necessary to state such an obligation for the C of E since parishioners have always had access to the church in time of divine service, and to solemnize marriage in the parish church with the doors locked would always have been illegal. (I am inclined to think that, even in the dissenting context, 'open doors' must simply have meant 'unlocked doors'. It was never unlawful to close the doors to keep the heat in.)

Since the Religious Disabilities Act 1847, public dissenting worship has not required to be tolerated under the conditions of the 1688 Act. Presumably the risk of sedition under colour of religion had passed. The 1836 requirement of open doors could therefore have been repealed then.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The canonical requirement of authorised buildings began in the belief that the local Christian community would naturally congregate in the parish church, allowing both the publicity and the teaching aims of solemnization to be achieved. The 1836 requirement for dissenting meeting houses to be registered for marriages served to exclude the more dubious sects which had no buildings to register, but dubious modern sects and organisations can be excluded just as well by the conditions that must be satisfied before a group can nominate officiants.

Please share your views below:

No. Given what is said above about the open doors requirement, access for the general public is not essential. The public is represented by the witnesses and officiant, the latter having a public function and also ensuring the dignity of the occasion. I believe this could equally be done in any of the listed venues.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage of the Cornwalls in 2005 illustrated how this requirement can have unintended consequences. But in any case, marriages have always been solemnized in Jewish homes which are not open to the public; civil solemnization should not be subject to greater regulation than Jewish.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

In all cases, it is enough to leave this to the discretion of the venue owner - possibly with an exemption from the Equality Act so that the owner's policy is protected from challenge.

I notice there is no question regarding religious weddings in register offices.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be suggested that the officiant's discretion is to be limited by his religious nominating body: generally this is acceptable. In the case of the C of E, though, this should be done by primary legislation (Act or Measure) or delegated legislation derived from such a source. It is unacceptable to impose by canon rules which will indirectly limit laypeople's choice.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whether the building is 'safe' can usefully be covered by a pre-approval process. Whether it is suitable in other respects (e.g. whether a humanist officiant - if these are allowed - regards a Baptist chapel as a suitable venue) should still be for the officiant to decide.

Please share your views below:

Buildings which were parish churches, registered buildings or approved premises at the date when the changes come into force should be deemed 'pre-approved' in respect of any marriage which could have been solemnized there before the changes.

I have no strong view whether local authorities, registration authorities, the Fire & Rescue service or a central government department should pre-approve other venues in respect of safety considerations; though in all cases the officiant's discretion on suitability for a particular wedding must remain. I would also hope that any fees for pre-approval would be on a cost recovery basis.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think the date and location should be required to be added, not merely 'able'.

I am not clear of the reason to add parents unless it is for genealogical purposes. A 16- or 17-year old party should have given parental details before the ceremony. If details are to be given by others this should be in a consistent form, not dependent entirely on whom a party regards as its 'parent', which might be positively misleading to others. I should either require it, or not provide for it at all; but I should not make it optional.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this proposal.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree to 1-3.

I appreciate that the terms of Reference do not allow the Commission to propose a change from the current law as stated at (4); but I find this a quite excessive sanction for couples who marry against the wishes of a hierarchy. A proportionate ecclesiastical penalty on the officiant would be quite enough.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This does not clearly cover deliberately misleading information from the parties when the schedule/marriage document is issued. These are more than mistakes, and under the current law might well render a publication of banns 'undue' and so void. I would leave solemnization under such circumstances void.

Subject to that, I agree with (1).

(2) and (3) correspond with the current law and are quite acceptable.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My reservations regarding 1(ii) are the same as expressed above.

Otherwise my answers must be coloured by my conviction, expressed at the outset, that the unsolemnized contract of marriage continues to exist, albeit with minimal legal consequences.

I also believe the Nullity of Marriage Act 1971 confused an existing and continuing distinction by its use of the terms void and voidable. There was and remains a difference between a marriage void (for example) for incest, which cannot even be contracted, and a contract of marriage which is not solemnized as the law requires (whether that be the common law requirement of an attendant clerk, or the statutory requirements since 1753). The former is nothing, the latter is an unsolemnized contract. (When the 1753 Act described defectively solemnized marriages as 'null and void' it was relying on the common but imprecise terminology which used 'marriage' to mean 'solemnized marriage', and it really meant that the solemnization would be void.)

If consent is vitiated by duress etc. there is initially no contract and thus no marriage at all, but consent can be given later, preventing annulment once such consent is given or presumed, which is why the marriage is now termed 'voidable'. The backdating of such a marriage to the ceremony is a legal fiction.



If consent is never expressed, there is nothing at all. There cannot be a solemnization of marriage without a contract to solemnize. But it remained possible - though rare - beyond 1753 for a marriage to be contracted first and solemnized later. Since, in that case, failure to give notice (1(ii)) or to express consent at the ceremony (2) would be defects of form, the result would be an unsolemnized contract. I find this a more helpful terminology than 'non-qualifying ceremony', though it is true that the ceremony would have no effect.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above, if consent is never expressed, there is nothing at all. If consent is expressed but vitiated by duress etc. there is initially no contract and thus no marriage at all, but consent can be given later, preventing annulment once such consent is given or presumed, which is why the marriage is now termed 'voidable'. The 3-year limit effectively presumes consent after that time, and I agree that under some circumstances that would be an unrealistic presumption.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that if the actual or purported officiant has been led to do this by instigation on the part of one of the couple, that person should also be liable to prosecution as an accessory.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not particularly happy with the requirement of consent from a prison governor. But otherwise the law in these areas is fine.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the parliamentarians of 1970 - and therefore disagree with the Commission - regarding the equivalence of the exceptional discretion conferred on the Registrar-General in cases of terminal illness to the legatine powers of the Archbishop of Canterbury. In both cases an exceptional dispensation from normal procedures is being granted, under a power entrusted by Parliament to a senior public officer. If Siperintendent Registrars were capable of taking this decision for secular solemnization, parish clergy would have been equally capable of taking it in cases of ecclesiastical solemnization.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, the point is that this is an dispensation from normal requirements in an exceptional situation. If the party concerned is neither dead nor married within three months, then the situation is clearly not as exceptional as was supposed. The provision made in 1970 seems correct.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In this case there is a good chance that the circumstances making normal procedures impractical will last for more than 12 months.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My understanding of a marriage with full legal consequences as a solemnized contract comes into play here. The ontologically important step is the contract, and it was always possible for a contract of marriage to be concluded by proxy. There was therefore never a requirement for the contracting parties to be in the same place at the same time. The decline in marriages by proxy was due only to solemnization requirements, and these are a matter for parliament to regulate (directly or, as suggested here, by delegation to ministers).

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I see no particular need for this. I should also be concerned if a party were enabled to marry on his own private yacht; since the relationship he would have as master of that vessel with the officiant, as a passenger, would possibly deprive the officiant of that control of the ceremony which some of your other proposals assume.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with these but I should also allow religious and belief ceremonies at which officiants who were duly nominated to serve as such ashore, but currently under contract to serve as cruise ship chaplains (whether as employees or independent contractors of the cruise line), would officiate. I appreciate the need for the cruise line to have control, but that would be the case also in a chaplaincy situation. I would not allow a passenger to officiate merely because, by coincidence, he was a minister of religion or humanist celebrant.

On the high seas there is no diocesan jurisdiction and the clergy of episcopal churches should be free to take, as conscience dictates, decisions which might, on land, belong to their superiors in the hierarchy.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree subject to what I have said regarding religious and belief ceremonies.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am not sure this is a realistic question. If the possibility has not hitherto existed on English-registered ships, it is quite possible that people who would have liked to marry on board by religious rites have not thought it worth expressing their desire. That does not mean it does not exist. There is certainly demand for religious worship on cruise ships, and in the interest of choice - which appears to motivate many of the Commission's other proposals - I believe my proposal to treat contracted ship's chaplains similarly to deck officers trained as officiants is the right compromise.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, though local authorities should not have discretion to require regular re-inspections. If re-inspection is to be required at all, the frequency should be set nationally, possibly at ten year intervals.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, though the emphasis is on 'optional'. Were pre-approval by a public authority to be required my response to q.78 would apply here also.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have no evidence to offer. But it is absurd to suggest that the current law prevents anybody from getting married. Whether it discourages marriage, and the proposed reforms would lead to more marriages, I am unsure.

I would not use the term 'legally married'. One is either (i) not contracted in marriage (and therefore not married in any sense). or (ii) contracted in the sight of God in a way the law recognises, but without valid solemnization and therefore very few consequences, or (iii) party to a solemnized contract, with the full range of consequences normally associated with marriage.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no information on this.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The only point I would make about costs under the 2005 Regulations as amended is that their application to religious premises hosting civil partnership formation was a serious obstacle to churches, which were already registered for opposite sex marriage and wished to host all life union formation equally, seeking approval. The example of local authorities which set the approval fee at the same level as that for o-s marriage registration was, unfortunately, not followed by many others. This fee should always have been set nationally. However, that point probably lies outside your Terms of Reference.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No information.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No information.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No information.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The respective laws on same sex marriage within the United Kingdom did, for a time, make it desirable for English residents to travel to Scotland to marry, or for Northern Irish residents to travel to either of the other jurisdictions. But that need has lessened, and anyhow probably falls outside your Terms of

Reference. I have no information on other aspects.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to add.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No information.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No information.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No information.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF1C-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 19:34:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None, Private citizen

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We were married 57 years ago in my wife's parish church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our minister's daughter was married during lockdown and the occasion was very markedly reduced compared to what had been expected and would normally have been the case.

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think such a provision, though possibly inconvenient, has been established to prevent hasty and possibly fraudulent marriage ceremonies. To remove it would invite abuse.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems a reasonable facilitation for this internet age.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A week's deliberation seems a reasonable minimum period for either party to reconsider.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think the interview should always be in a verifiable person-to-person format, but that could possibly be achieved through internet media such as FaceTime. It is important to guard against sham and forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think there would need to be very clear guidelines as to what exceptional circumstances would justify a relaxation of the usual rules

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know how practical or effective and secure, on-line notice would be.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem to be unsatisfactory to postpone a wedding just because of unforeseen circumstances preventing the original officiant attending/

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure what this question is asking, but I would be wary of providing an 'open door' for any old 'officiant' to act.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Particularly in border areas, I think this could prove unreasonably restrictive.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems an archaic rule

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think the rules currently require the bans to be read in both the bride and groom's churches, and that this obviously provides additional security against illegal weddings. The rule should therefore NOT be altered.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think both requirements are necessary

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think that is a sensible precaution.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I doubt that civil preliminaries provide enough public scrutiny

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are all necessary minimum safeguards

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:



I think this would unfairly obstruct and restrict churches who have no minister, yet have congregants who have strong spiritual and emotional ties to their church.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable, (unless the current rules demand two officiants). I would not favour any changes that made fraudulent marriages easier.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such clerks should possess sufficient training, gravitas, and religious conviction to be relied upon to perform their duties with appropriate seriousness.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think people of "non-religious belief organisations" ( e.g atheists or humanists) should be entrusted with such solemn responsibilities

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Frankly, such a loose definition opens the door to any cult or lunatic-fringe sect that might wish to conduct trivialised 'weddings'

Please share your views below:

Clearly such a list would be a minefield for disputes, but do we really want 'weddings conducted by irreverent entities like "The Magic Tooth Fairy"? Because, if we don't (as we obviously shouldn't), then it is much safer to uphold the current rules.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As in the answer to the question above, such a relaxation would allow Satanists, witches, and any ungodly organisation to make a mockery of marriage

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

In principle the law should expressly exclude bogus organisations, but the difficulty will be in agreeing a list of what the law regards as bogus. The proviso that such organisations would be those who "promote purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy and morality" will prove utterly inadequate. The constant downgrading of morality will immediately render the distinction unenforceable. e.g will it prevent polygamy or even trans-human unions, i.e between humans and animals? Only the unchanging yardstick laid down by Almighty God in Scripture can stand the test of time and degrading public morality. Of course that has already been breached with dire consequences in legalising same-sex unions.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think I have made my reservations clear enough already

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly a public list should be kept, but I do not think NRBOs should be eligible.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am firmly opposed to independent officiants. Not only would they degrade to solemnity of marriage, but they would have an undesirable tendency to commercialise the process of officiating by introducing competitive services

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly any authorised officiant should be responsibly selected and approved.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are reasonable minimum requirements

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Officiating must not become a competitive business.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a set and reasonable fee, to protect couples from exploitation.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure I understand the issue

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I'm not sure I could trust the GRO to compose suitable guidelines without qualified input from established religious authorities.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure about that. Obviously it risks cranky organisations perpetuating aberrations inherent in their defective and ungodly belief system

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but to whom might appeal be made if the GRO becomes a protector of aberrant practices and a persecutor of those who uphold traditional biblical practices?

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Age should be no barrier, though clearly senility should be cause for withdrawal of authority

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I fear that "professional development" will inevitably include promotion of unbiblical and unnatural forms of so-called marriage. It will thus lead to the unfair and damaging elimination of Christian registrars and accelerate moral decline

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a certain level of formal documentation, both to deter frivolity and coercion.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that is too open-ended and in no way guards against people proposing frivolous or profane ceremonies. The GRO must stipulate some guidelines and limitations in accordance with custom and answers to earlier questions.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above: Some guidelines and limitations are necessary

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clearly people of faith may sometimes choose to have a civil ceremony and should be entitled to include religious content

Please share your views below:

Obviously, participants must be allowed, even encouraged, to treat their marriage as being consecrated in the presence of Almighty God.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Circumstances beyond participants' control, may cause them to have to resort to a civil ceremony, but they should certainly NOT be prevented from sanctifying it with a religious ceremony subsequently, usually in the company of their church friends.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The traditional Open Doors rule makes a valuable and important statement that a wedding is a public affair, of interest to the wider society and not just to the bride and groom.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That is far too loose and invites ridiculous and inappropriate venues, that would bring the wedding ceremony into disrepute. There must be guidelines and limits.

Please share your views below:

I know this is a very difficult issue, but don't you think that a wedding in the air---e.g. during a free fall descent, would inevitably be too rushed and utterly incompatible with the solemnity of the occasion?

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Public should always be entitled to witness weddings, though this could be from a reasonable distance as long as the proceedings are audible to everyone.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Use of religious venues for atheist. humanist ceremonies would be entirely inappropriate and would invite people to misuse churches to provide a false and insincere impression of solemnity and tradition. But religious ceremonies can perfectly well be conducted in non-religious venues, because, the building is irrelevant and will sometimes confer a bogus impression that the participants have been blessed by God.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants will need some guidance--it can't be totally carte-blanche.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

GRO guidance should expand on that and specify that condition.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Probably the GRO would benefit from some expert advice from qualified religious authorities

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would think that locations that frequently host weddings are clearly suitable.

Please share your views below:

I really don't have any idea

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Those details would seem to be essential and common sense.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should be entitled to use their own 'first language'.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I suppose that is moving with the times.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clause 4 is needed to prevent same-sex marriage 'partners' falsely using churches which have deliberately refrained from giving consent to unbiblical practices.

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses and , surely must at least be required to sign the wedding register document. Why would anyone want to remove such a requiremnet?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Those seem to be obvious reasons to invalidate the marriage. After all, they are hardly onerous.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure. Surely non-consummation of a wedding has always been grounds for nullifying the marriage. Why should that condition be removed?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise, their marriage ceremony would be rendered superfluous

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lack of consent should be sufficient grounds in itself, regardless of any period of time.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't know what the current law is, but I think weddings should be allowed to take place in hospitals if necessary and in houses where one member is bedbound. I tend to think prison weddings are inappropriate.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is probably a sensible precaution, especially in the case of an illness affecting mental capacity

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Hospital and housebound certainly. Prisons only if the release date falls within the 12 months.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure

No

Please expand on your answer:

"risk of death" is too vague. We are all at some risk of dying every day.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure that marriages in international waters would have geographical/ national validity

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't know, but authorising weddings on cruise ships would obviously raise challenges about the eligibility of an unlimited variety of other vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think such wedding venues should be authorised at all, then the 'problem' of not knowing who would officiate, would not arise.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answers above. Cruise ship romances are highly likely to occur, but I think it would be a sensible limitation if the would-be partners should be required to abide by the usual requirements of weddings on land.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If such marriages must be legalised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some such precautions against hasty and possibly bogus marriages.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There probably is, but I think it would be safer for all concerned if they were lot legalised.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see my other answers above. Such provisions indicate some of the problems that such weddings will cause.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think 'compassion' should affect the fee.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why change the existing arrangement?

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I can't see why there should be any pre-approval fee for ssss approved venues.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 83:



(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure why the fee should be set at a level below cost recovery. Why should the terminally ill be entitled to a fee reduction if there is no other reason to think they are impecunious.?

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I'm not sure of the answer to either question, but I am strongly of the view that marriage should be positively encouraged by the taxation system, instead of being disincentivised as I believe it is now

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I find the question too difficult

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I just don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I am strongly in favour of any steps that will encourage couples to enter into a formal and public marriage commitment

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Don't know

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As I've said, I am not in favour of authorising marriages at sea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No idea

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDR-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 20:39:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My wife & I married in the church we attended 30 years ago

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

There were none

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

One wedding was postponed, and the other went ahead but there was not enough capacity for us to be able to attend.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that marriage is a community celebration, therefore it should take place somewhere where at least one of the parties is based.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible, but they should be displayed offline as well for those who are not online

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It shouldn't be possible for anyone to get married without being present at the ceremony

It would make a farce of marriage allowing couples to say anything they like or nothing at all - the current public declarations should be retained. There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony.

Couples should state at the ceremony that there are no impediments and that they are both freely giving consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious lifetime commitment - to allow a couple to water down the ceremony would demonstrate a wrong view of marriage, since a wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. In fact, it has been reported in the news concerning various unofficial wedding ceremonies which have been based on film plots, fairy stories and couples dressing up strangely (e.g hedgehogs). It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Since there is still a problem in our society with forced marriage, it would be crazy to not keep weddings as public events. Marriage should keep the public nature of the wedding declarations, since removing the requirement would encourage a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Forced marriages would be much easier to do if they could be done anywhere.

Please share your views below:

Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding ceremonies are public declarations, and without this public accessibility the meaning of marriage is weakened and forced marriages are easier to do.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

From everyone I know that has wanted to get married to those who are married, the law has not discouraged or prevented them from getting married.

I feel that the provisional proposals would not facilitate couples getting married, but would make it easier for forced marriages to continue and increase in number.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF76-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-22 21:18:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming the proposal doesn't reduce protection from forced marriage.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Three days enables marriages not to suffer from administrative delays. However, I am assuming a shorter minimum period does not reduce the ability of the interviewer to avoid licensing forced or sham marriages.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I suspect it will be easier to disguise a sham or forced marriage if interviews take place remotely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Ye, it should continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, in addition to wherever they are publically displayed at the moment.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. The logic of banns is that they enable a group of people who nominally know the couple to raise legal objections. This cannot be done so well if a narrower group of people are asked (i.e. people at only one church, not three).

However, I accept that often wherever Banns are read neither the future bride or future groom are known anyway.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I am clergy. I would be glad to check evidence that proved the legality of the proposed marriage. I would also be glad of any system which enabled me to more easily notice dodgy activity on the part of one or both of the couple. So meeting the couple separately seems good. However, it may introduce much more work for clergy in parishes with lots of weddings -- clergy who are usually over-worked already.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on registration officers to make a wedding on their premises possible since they are too small to have an appointed and properly trained officer. Please retain this possibility as it is a service to smaller religious groups.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legal safeguard must be put in place to ensure anyone nominated as an officiant is properly trained, subject to oversight, etc.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Without this definition, almost all organisations which may wish to hold weddings in line with their own views could be classed as either religious or non-religious secular. Presumably not all such organisations ought by default to qualify.

Also, a marriage ceremony must be seen to be a solemn ceremony within whichever tradition or belief system it is being held.

Please share your views below:

Yes there should be a list. Excluded organisations should include any which are theme or hobby based or based on fandom (e.g. a fanclub for a fictional quasi-religious set of characters).

A marriage ceremony must be seen to be a solemn ceremony within whichever tradition or belief system it is being held. Any organisation which would simply be offering marriage as a 'service' provided to its members and not as an integral part of a way of life promoted by that organisation should be excluded.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No marriage ceremony should be seen also to be an endorsement or commitment to any 'purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.' Organisation promoting such should not necessarily be discriminated against when it comes to the new provisions in law for marriage. However, they must be able to demonstrate that their marriage ceremonies will not be co-opted for the promotion of 'purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.'

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. Named individuals only as a safeguard.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not feel that officiating at a wedding should be possible for an independent who is disconnected from an organisation committed to maintaining the solemnity of marriage (e.g. civil authorities or religious organisations).

I suggest those wishing to be independent officiants are registered with the local authority to work on their behalf.

Moreover, many aspects of the wedding business have been commercialised, but the solemnising itself should not be. Especially as independent officiants may be able to command a higher fee by offering a more flexible service in which the solemnity of marriage is undermined by a willingness to incorporate inappropriate requests by the couple.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be clear guidelines about what 'fit and proper' means with power given to civil authorities to inspect those who are appointed to check the guidelines are being followed.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a cap on fees (with flexibility to cover an officiant's expenses). This ensures marriage justice and will not price poorer couples out of marriage.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. This responsibility must extend to the whole marriage service part of the wedding day. Clear guidelines must be set out to explain what constitutes dignity and solemnity. Couples must be obliged to keep to these guidelines. It would put an officiant under too much pressure if they could ever be seen as the 'obstacle' to the kind of ceremony a couple wants on the basis of a merely personal definition of dignified and solemn.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, it must be possible to appeal to the civil authority.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The schedule should contain a declaration that the couple have already expressed their consent. However, the ceremony itself **MUST** contain a verbal expression of consent (or, only where speech is impossible, some other public declaration). The phrase 'whether orally or otherwise' should only be interpreted along these lines. The law and society has an interest in marriage and it must not be allowed to become a wholly private or personalised affair. A prescribed form of words already exists in the Marriage Act 1949 and should be retained.

Re. para 2: the General Register Office must reserve the right to critique any proposed form of words which does not sufficiently express in close relation to the words of consent that marriage is exclusive and permanent, i.e. what the couple are consenting to by consenting to be married must be made clear.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that the parties may choose the form and ceremony -- i.e. a Jewish couple must have access to a Jewish ceremony. However, this does not mean that a couple may devise an entirely personalised form of words or ceremony with the officiant. There must be guidelines in place to restrict changes to the form of words used to express consent. Furthermore, any ceremony devised must maintain the dignity and solemnity of marriage. Reports of some non-legally binding marriage ceremonies suggest a willingness to conduct bizarre and inappropriate ceremonies. This must not be legally permitted. The degeneration of marriage would be a blight on society, not a sign of progress. For a couple to be required to come to terms with the solemnity of marriage and with requirements imposed by wider society better reflects the nature of marriage than to allow a couple to determine what marriage will look like for them.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Open Doors rule is a protection against forced or bigamous marriages. Also, it is symbolically representative of the public interest in all marriages. A significant factor in the stability of marriages, which is especially important for children, is that they are entered into publicly, not secretly. This makes a married couple accountable to society thereby promoting social cohesion, not disintegration. The Open Doors policy helps reinforce this aspect of marriage both to the guests and the couple.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is highly desirable to make a range of presently unregistered venues possible locations for marriage, especially where religious communities do not own their own premises. However, it is paramount that the venue chosen is consistent with the solemnity and dignity of marriage and does not cheapen it or obscure its nature. A dignified marriage could take place on a paddle steamer, but not on a power boat, for example.

Also, clear guidelines must be given as to what is an appropriate location and officiants must be empowered to rule out certain locations without feeling any pressure to conform to a couples wishes. For example, a venue must be able to accomodate the legal minimum number of guests. It should not be associated with any activities which undermine marriage -- such a brothel, strip club, etc. It is not good for the country to allow weddings to be degraded in this way.

If guidance cannot be enforced and inappropriate venues are likely to be chosen, they should not be legalised in the first place.

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

I only suggest restricting 'in the air' weddings as they sound like a novelty. A wedding could conceivably take place on an airliner packed with guests or in a hot air balloon, but this begins to sound like the novelty of the 'venue' has taken priority over the solemnity of the event. This would not be the case with a woodland wedding, or a wedding in a private home (albeit I think an open door policy ought to be in operation even there.)

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Public access should not be prevented where it is possible. However, venues which are not readily accesible to the public should be permitted.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within the Church of England I feel the law ought to prohibit non-religious weddings. However, each religious organisation should have freedom to choose how its premises are used.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) This would put officiants under pressure from couples to approve locations; they would not feel free to make up their own mind.
- 2) less scrupulous officiants could charge increased fees for their added felxibility.
- 3) This would be a very subjective process. Instead, strict guidlines should be used which constrain the officiant. Why would an officiant turn down money just to avoid officiating in a venue they \*felt\* was inappropriate when there are no objective criteria to confirm that hunch?

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But definitions of the words 'safe' and 'dignified' must be given. Otherwise this is entirely subjective and those who stand to profit from hotsing weddings at their venues will simply start recommending the officiants they know who will decide the venue is safe and dignified. In other wirds, this proposal is no safeguard at all.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This advice must be made available, but it must be stronger than advice otherwise there is too much social and financial pressure to ignore it.

#### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the decision is made to make officiants responsible for approving venues, it seems sensible to have in place a set of standards which a venue will benefit from meeting. This is pointless, though, if officiants are, in practice, given carte blanche to spontaneously approve any venue.

Please share your views below:

This will only work if there is an incentive for venues to be pre-approved. This is only possible if officiants cannot spontaneously approve any venue. It must be the case that an officiant can much more easily approve a venue if it has 'pre-approval'. Therefore it must be difficult for an officiant to approve a new unapproved venue.

Perhaps officiants should be required to make personal visits to unapproved venues before approving them. This could be listed as a chargeable service so that it is cheaper to choose pre-approved venues. Many venues currently used for weddings would automatically be 'pre-approved'. To become 'pre-approved' a venue would have to host e.g. ten weddings (after a visit and approval by the officiant of each wedding; perhaps at least 5 visits by different officiants should be required). A venue would be able to offer proof that e.g. 10 weddings had taken place there and as a result receive 'pre-approved' status from the local authority.

### Chapter 8: Registration

#### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 10: Validity and offences

#### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not consider a marriage without witnesses to be void, but this is different from permitting marriages to take place without witnesses which, combined with the possibility of venues not accessible to the public, would make achieving a valid marriage much much easier.

#### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I propose rather that exceptions are made to the requirement for co-habitation, e.g. for military service.

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure what I think.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so long as provision is made for emergency consultations. This will minimise the exploitation of dying elderly people by money-grabbers, for instance, without unduly preventing death bed marriages of a genuine pre-existing romantic couple.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think these should be permitted on compassionate grounds, but number 3 ought to be used only where a deathbed marriage cannot take place in person. It should never be used to permit marriages to take place when a couple could be at the same venue.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any vessel which is designed to accomodate a significant number of passengers, so that the public nature of marriage may be reflected. That means any vessel like a cruise ship, but not speed boats, or sail boats.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree oly insofar as the cruise ship company may promise an officiant but not know who will be on duty that day. If the couple is taking along a privately engaged officiant, they must supply the name. So the nae could eithe rbe the name of the officiant OR 'the duty officiant of the cruise ship'.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The biggest factor preventing marriages by those who are not opposed to them is cost. Making a wider range of venues available may help, but not if it increases the commercialisation of weddings.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Any increased costs decrease the occurrence of weddings.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A range of low-cost dignified venues is crucial to the promotion of marriage.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Nothing to say

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to say

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to say

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to say

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing to say

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Nothing to say

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCZ-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 00:47:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I attended one. The venue had to change due to social distance restrictions and the numbers attending were limited to 30 so that made it very difficult for the couple getting married to choose who could come in the light of the fact that they were a large family.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I don't fully know the process for registrars but I assume they need to run checks and this gives them time to do this and follow up any queries or questions that might have arisen during the in-person interviews. I think

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think an in person interview should take place every time with relevant ID provided. I think there is more potential for a remote system to be open to abuse for those who might want to exploit the system in some way

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, that seems to be a practical way forward if it is difficult for the person to travel to give notice and then have to travel again for the in-person interview.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Probably a more open way of people being able to check and raise any concerns or objections

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think it makes sense for them to be published more widely so that there is a more openness in the process and more availability for people to check who is getting married.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

They should be able to call for documentary evidence to support the marriage request but that evidence must be handled in lines with GDPR regulations.

The process should have an in-person element to it.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should. This helps to support the legal framework of marriage

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

If the Anglican preliminaries are just as robust as the civil ones I don't see why the Anglican preliminaries can't continue

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If for example a church has less than 20 who meet regularly for worship but have someone in that congregation who is competent to officiate then I would suggest they should be allowed to. It seems to me it should be more on the competency and integrity of the officiant as opposed to the size of the 'organisation'

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I would not be in favour of this action as living in a society that largely rejects Christian morality at present this would open up a legal door to shut down the church. The definition of promoting purposes contrary to public morality is open to abuse and mis-use

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, those organisations nominating should ensure their officiants are fit and proper persons but there perhaps should be some guidelines issued as to what actually that means to make sure the system is not open to abuse

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

However it needs some guidelines on what dignity and solemnity means and this should apply equally to the content of the ceremony as well as the conduct of the ceremony

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The nominating body should be encouraged to act in the first instance and if not the General Register Office should perhaps then step in. However there needs to be a fair process of appeal to an independent body where there may be disagreement between the nominating organisation and the General Register Office

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be an independent appeal process in place to ensure fairness in this process

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Even though preliminaries may have checked that there is no impediment to being married I feel to maintain the solemnity and dignity of this lifetime commitment that the ceremony should still include the willingness of the parties to publicly declare that this is the case.

Whilst ceremonies may reflect different belief systems I feel the process of giving consent should be standard so that whoever you are, whatever marriage you might attend that you can recognise and know when consent is being given, as the wording of the ceremony is always clear on that issue not just for those getting married but for those watching and attending.

One of the key purposes of the marriage ceremony is to make that public expression of consent and thus that should be part of the service supported, as now, with a signing of document that will be evidence from that time on that a public declaration of consent has been made.

I feel strongly that the public declaration of no impediment and of consent should remain as recognised wording within the ceremony requirements.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned that this will take away from the solemnity and dignity of the marriage. A ceremony should be appropriate to such a life significant event and not solely about the interests of the couple. The idea that it should be meaningful to the couple should also apply to other interested parties such as society. The ceremony should reflect to society and the state that this commitment is one that is taken seriously. It may be difficult to define but there should be some guidelines to ensure some degree of dignity about the marriage commitment which I feel may be lost if it is simply up to an officiant to be happy with the ceremony arrangements.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this means having a religious service with an officiant going through that process again after a civil wedding ceremony then I don't see the need for the legal bit to be done twice. I don't have an objection if someone wants to follow up a civil wedding ceremony with a religious service. I know of several occasions where couples who wanted to have a religious ceremony found that this was not possible and had to have a civil ceremony to satisfy legal requirement but later on then had the religious ceremony that they wanted (without the legal bit which took place in the civil ceremony). I have no objection to the latter scenario taking place.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think public access and open door policy should remain as it communicates the public nature of marriage but is also an added protection against the likes of forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst an expansion of the venues in which weddings can take place may have some advantages I think there should be safeguards that the location is one that promotes the solemnity and seriousness of the commitment being made and not just give free for all for those getting married to marry anywhere they choose. Locations should also be practical in allowing for the public declarations to be made and heard by all and an open doors policy to continue to operate.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I feel that ceremonies outdoors would be sensible especially under these times of Covid 19 and social distancing. Outdoors weddings could provide a sensible alternative. I feel that weddings in the air, on water or in private homes are potentially venues that would limit the public nature of the ceremony especially if an 'open door' policy is maintained in the public interest.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure it would be appropriate to legally prohibit civil weddings/non religious belief weddings from taking place in religious venues but I feel it should be up to the venue 'owners' if they want to allow that to happen. I don't feel that the religious venues should be forced to allow civil weddings/non religious belief weddings if they don't want to either.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am happy for the officiant to decide on location approval but again if the location owner is not happy for the wedding to take place on their premises then the officiant should not have powers to force the wedding to take place on the participants desired location.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Further guidelines on what we mean by dignified would be welcome. Safeguards need to be put in place.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but perhaps they should seek consultation on this.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My concern is that a venue should have the right to accept or decline a request to have a wedding take place in their venue or location and that the officiant does not have power to overrule the wishes of the location owners.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Happy for electronic registration to take place but that should still be done on location at the wedding ceremony with participants of all signing parties present.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be witnesses and the schedule should be signed as evidence of the verbal (or otherwise) consent that has been given during the ceremony

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would only want to see numbers 2-4 take place in a time of declared and defined national emergency not as the normal business as usual process

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I'm not aware that our current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married or whether the proposals would facilitate couples getting married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBZ-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 06:34:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Self

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

Our wedding was meaningful.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please provide evidence of problems associated with the current requirement. I've not heard of any.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please provide evidence of problems associated with the current requirement. I've not heard of any.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The question does not say the current requirement so answers to this are not valid?

Please provide evidence of problems associated with the current requirement. I've not heard of any.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Only in a COVID type situation.

The proposal in normal circumstances would send out the wrong message. Can we conduct our married life on a remote basis - never to physically meet?  
This surely is nonsense.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

no opinion

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds like it will strengthen real marriages

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not familiar with requirement

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please provide evidence of problems associated with the current requirement. I've not heard of any.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please provide evidence of problems associated with the current requirement. I've not heard of any.

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/a

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

If it strengthens weddings.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

not sure

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

not sure

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds good

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds good

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds good

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds good

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure

Please share your views below:

Sounds like you are dragging something into Law which will create more problems.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds good

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

A bit of a strange circular question. No would be the short answer. As the law, policy and morality can change over time, how can you exclude religious organisations that promotes purposes which the Law, policy or morality now disagree with. In effect this creates a state religion (typical of Communism) which changes over time.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure what is a non-religious belief organisation.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ok I guess

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds good.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

OK

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hourly pay + expenses fees limit should be based on the minimum wage and maximum of being equal to the average of the couples joint hourly pay (or equivalent).

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds reasonable

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I guess this should include responsibility for the words used in the ceremony etc.

Dignity and solemnity needs a bit of a definition. Marriage needs to be different to other gatherings for all involved. You could say that the location needs to be a building similar to a Church or Chapel in nature.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This weakens marriage where marriage should be strengthened. You need to be at your own wedding - just signing a document makes it a contract like a house purchase!

Declarations is what makes a LEGAL marriage!

Dignity and Solemnity are thrown out under this proposal. This consultation needs to be written by someone that knows what they are talking about. Remember that the prescribed words are the minimum with couples being able to add their own so there is no need to mess about with the Legal aspects.

I don't understand why you want to help those who cheat and lie to their partner by removing safeguards.

You also need to understand that a wedding is not just about the couple. Their relatives and others (e.g. that would want to marry either of the couple) are impacted. Additionally the state has an interest in maintaining and improving the lives of society in general. Law and order will disappear, and chaos will result in a few generations.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should not be placed in this awkward and unnecessary position and it's not just the couple who have an interest in the marriage!

How about a couple in a ceremony dressed up like [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] to make a political point to all those attending? Maybe such couples have their priorities the wrong way around or their mental state should be called into question!

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Like most religious groups, they understand the true definition of marriage.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

OK I guess

Please share your views below:

Those in line with the longest established religion in the dominion of the legislation.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This relates to the fact that the wedding is a public event and fundamental to the purpose in law. Without this provision e.g. nudists could have a ceremony with the couple demonstrating their union.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, the stupidity of this question is obvious. There is no need of a law to permit anywhere as there is no where else outside of anywhere is there?

As in previous answers, weddings outside of the current Law can't be weddings, just a gathering for a party!

Are couples restricted in location, after their wedding?

Please share your views below:

Don't elevate people's private hobbies to a public platform.

Based on evidence of unofficial weddings in 'strange' places, I would put a stamp of authority on the above or similar locations.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other - not sure

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no change to the current system

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no change to the current system

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no change to the current system.

The guidance would need consultation and debate.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no change to the current system.

Please share your views below:

There should be no change to the current system.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other - note for point 3.

Mother and Father represents the biological providers of genetic material for the person being married. How these mothers and fathers identify is not relevant to the purpose, and also this can change. If the person is a non-biological father and mother then this should be identified as a step father/mother or other established words or symbols.

### Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Location is missing from your consideration. The options should reflect location and equality:

In Wales: Welsh only or both Welsh and English

In England: English only or both Welsh and English

OR (I would prefer this option to strengthen each countries differences)

In Wales: Welsh only

In England: English only

### Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

"Same-sex marriage" should be "Same-sex union" as marriage is between one man and one woman by definition.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't change the system!

### Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't change the system!

### Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't change the system!

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't change the system!

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Don't change the system!

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problems with the law.

If there are any problems by people in these situations, there should be some accommodation in the law if there are none already.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If there are any problems by people in these situations, there should be some accommodation in the law if there are none already.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If there are any problems by people in these situations, there should be some accommodation in the law if there are none already.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If there are any problems by people in these situations, there should be some accommodation in the law if there are none already.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless established communities are living in that area.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a temporary validation (e.g. 1 year) until a normal wedding is carried out. Cruise ships should replicate provisions with ship chaplains etc.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Those with a Chapel room and employ Chaplains as part of their crew.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not the name of the officiant?

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Chaplains should be the standard

No

Please expand on your answer:

Rules should be inline with Chaplains

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Void if not carried out by a Chaplain

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No demand.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure why a wedding involving a person who is terminally ill is made for the right reason.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Invalid question - there is no option (3) the fee is equal to all

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. No it doesn't

2. The proposals overall devalues marriages. To increase marriages other measures could be used: promotion in the media, tax advantages relating to future children etc.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

n/a

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

n/a

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Devaluing marriages will have a huge long term cost as the population will become ungovernable.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFC8-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 09:05:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is helpful for churches to utilise the services of a civil registrar where there is no authorized person in the church. This would obviate the need for a civil ceremony in addition to a church wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This could lead to a subjective interpretation. Increasingly traditional moral views are regarded with suspicion and such a prohibition could be used against those holding such views.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is concern that inappropriate officiants might be chosen and so undermine the seriousness of the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words reflect the seriousness of the commitment of marriage, with solemn promises made binding husband and wife as one for life. This is an important bulwark to protect marriage.

Making such promises in the presence of witnesses affirms the public nature of marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Free choice can undermine the seriousness of the marriage ceremony and encourage spectacle rather than ceremony. Every effort should be made to protect the solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors is an important safeguard to marriage, ensuring proceedings are reasonable, underlining the public nature of the commitment and protecting against violations of the law through bigamy or forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Permitting marriages to take place anywhere significantly undermines the seriousness of marriage.

The important aspect of the marriage ceremony is in the promises made in the presence of witnesses. Preserving the integrity of the service is fundamental.

A wide choice of venues puts the focus on the event rather than the marriage.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCE-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 10:20:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Smaller intimate weddings of friends seemed to have more significance



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to avoid "wedding tourism". Marriage is a serious business.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Urge you to meet in person. Coercive behaviour is hard to spot inline

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Seems fair

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Except where bride or groom reside in Scotland or NI and are marrying someone residing in England or Wales in an Anglican wedding

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Should be in the parishes of both bride and groom as well as where wedding may occur

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Much of this already happens

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

some smaller churches struggle to have a vicar available so it is good to be able to offer a registrar

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This statement is vague. What constitutes "purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality." and who decides?  
I would prefer discrete objective criteria rather than this subjective approach subject to whims

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious undertaking and so registrars and vicars are well trained. To allow anyone to officiate risks degrading the serious promises which are being made. Also it could remove safeguards which currently seek to protect the vulnerable and young from being married against their will. It will result in a terrible muddle

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe independent officiants should be allowed to conduct weddings

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though how this will work if you allow independent officiants, I do not know...since they will be doing this as a business

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be set ( as they are now in church) , and published

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with enabling independent celebrants to officiate at weddings

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But with the full backing of the General Register office and a protocol/ grievance procedure clearly laid out

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But subject to satisfactory checks

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn and huge commitment so prescribed words help the couple and their families and friends to understand this. Allowing any old form of words or none cheapens marriage.

The prescribed form of words are promises for now and the future ( "I will") and are useful to fall back on.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But using prescribed words

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayer  
music  
bible reading

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It has always been the case that members of the parish/congregation can come along to witness a wedding. Keeping it public rather than behind closed doors, helps to protect against bigamous marriages. Marriage forms the backbone of society and communities so it seem right to celebrate this by maintaining an open door policy

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and not a gimmick. To allow marriages to take place anywhere risks undermining this

Please share your views below:

See above answer to q48

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to q48

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be hypocritical for a non religious belief wedding to take place in a religious venue when there are plenty of non religious venues available.....send very mixed messages and does not respect religious beliefs

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

venues should be registered

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

But clear objective guidelines need to be set....what constitutes safe or dignified?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, criteria must be objective

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

to have no witnesses etc reduces safeguards

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There may be safeguarding issues over remote weddings

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

ow would this be regulated

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reduces marriage to a holiday fling rather than a serious commitment

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See earlier answer

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see earlier answer

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see earlier answers

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see earlier answers

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

unfair to penalise the housebound

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see earlier answers.....how do you regulate or decide " safe and dignified"?



Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See earlier answers

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there should only be one fee

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

what other services do they offer?

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCN-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 10:31:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement reflects the seriousness of the step being undertaken . It's not like going on holiday.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

There is a strong case for separating these.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What about weddings in churches and other institutions? Unless, of course, the civil issues are separated from the religious.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I'm concerned about the phrase "contrary to public policy or morality". Increasingly 'public morality' , as defined in law, is in opposition to religious beliefs. Religious bodies should not be discriminated against just because, for example, they do not believe that same sex marriage is right.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on how restrictive the guidance might be, and whether it reflects a purely secular outlook not appropriate for religious ceremonies.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is much too subjective. There must be a common framework around which some choice is allowed.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public event, not totally private. This should be reflected in "open doors".

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Much too easy-going. Current rules allow for the seriousness of the occasion to be reflected in location. A free-for-all enables it to be treated as a joke.

Please share your views below:

Not in homes or air - not public. Lakes and rivers similarly.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Registrar of Marriages

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFC5-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 11:19:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a church and registered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Dismisses the seriousness and sanctity of marriage

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be an adequate period of serious consideration

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Should be face to face so that marriage is not reduced to some slipshod and sudden whim

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No hard view but I would leave it as at now

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

every one has online access

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to be minimising the whole concept of marriage

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Please share your views below:

As above

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No particular view

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As abbove

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Cannot see why not

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree with 1. but not 2.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Cannot really coment, as I do not know the Anglican set up.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The preseny situation seems satisfactory

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

all marriages should be 'official' and is the church does not have a register then an official should attend

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not qualified to comment

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As a minister in a non Anglian church I have married couples as we were authorised to marry, having our own register. I have also married couples in churches where no register was kept but an official was present to issue the certificate. this arrangement ought to be maintained

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registry office ought to be used and then let the non legal activity take place later.  
This can also apply to other religious churches holding no register

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It appears that these proposals are trivialising marriage to be by anyone, anytime and anywhere!

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFC7-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 11:22:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Abolishing this minimal requirement would be a green light to sham marriages used for immigration purposes.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, an interview is also important to helping detect sham marriages being used for immigration purposes.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A period of time such as 7 days is appropriate because anything substantially shorter e.g. 24 hours would also make sham marriages for immigration purposes easier.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, a wider audience is an important part of what is a public announcement.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

The current wording of the marriage banns invite the public to bring to the attention of the member of clergy reading them publicly any such issue. I think if such a declaration is required it must be additional to not instead of publishing banns of marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some churches (certainly many non Anglican ones) rely on civil registrars to legally solemnise a religious marriage in a church. These registrars are useful and should not be restricted solely to civil weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs careful thought because organisations which might really be more like political parties or lobby groups than a genuine belief system, could have a set of policies which (arguably) might claim to fulfill this criteria e.g. through education policies in particular.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The term 'contrary to public policy or morality' is subjective and suggests the ability to legally officiate at weddings might in the longer run depend on being in step with whatever the prevailing popular orthodoxy says about sexuality, morality and relationships.

In churches which could be described as having 'traditional values' about relationships and marriage between a man and a woman, it is crucial that they do not get forced to change their existing, official policies simply to continue to be able to officiate at weddings as they currently do, including in the church of England.

Any exclusion criteria should not include anything relating to sexual ethics or morality. Anything beyond excluding organisations on grounds that they advocate the violent overthrow of democracy or the use of violence to further their cause risks undermining plurality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think this would be appropriate because it could potentially be used simply to seek publicity e.g. for election candidates and/or political parties even if the applications have no mention of political views.

Currently, although the church of England in particular must agree to marry all heterosexual couples who request a wedding ceremony, individual churches and ministers can rest assured that the ceremony will be in line with a standard format. Also there isn't a financial bonus for ministers of religion (at least in the church of England) to conduct a wedding ceremony even though a church as a venue does receive an arguably nominal amount in parochial fees.

I would not wish to see a market be created for so-called independent officiants at weddings, and would be concerned that venues such as churches should not be forced to accept any ceremony which deviates and would misrepresent their beliefs.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is hard to see how prohibition of making a business of officiating at weddings is possible without some kind of limitation to fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of nominated independent representatives of religious organizations, any professional development obligations should lie with that organisation's governing body, not directly from the General Register Office.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is inappropriate for there not to be a requirement to openly and publicly state that there is no impediment. This is about trust between those in a relationship.

I think there must be prescribed words in a marriage ceremony which should include a commitment to remain faithful 'till death us do part'.

This reflects the seriousness of the commitment being made by each person. It is hard to justify any lesser commitment on any public policy grounds because of high divorce rates and the harm done to children.

Marriage is a public declaration and very solemn and serious commitment for the remainder of one's life, not just a private celebration of a desire for each other which, if that were all that a wedding was about, may grow cold.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A legally binding wedding ceremony must reflect the seriousness of the commitment being made.

It is important to reflect this through prescribed words at some point in any legally binding wedding ceremony.

There are good reasons to do so on public policy grounds - for example, the exemption from inheritance tax between spouses is at least partly in recognition of the benefits of a long term monogamous relationship for stability to children and recognition of the sacrifices made e.g. by a wife of a career for the sake of her children, particularly if a husband dies while children are young.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would not like to see ceremonies that misrepresent religious beliefs or water down the commitments made by couples at weddings while purporting to be religious in nature.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness of a marriage justifies it being a public declaration of a commitment to that relationship.

Again, other areas of public policy do recognize that such as the inheritance tax exemption between spouses.

So, open doors remain an important part of the marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think this is appropriate because a legally binding wedding would not be visible and public in nature if in a private house or garden.

Again if couples are to benefit from exemption to inheritance tax (an important area of public policy) it seems appropriate that the ceremony be visible to the public by taking place in an appropriate venue.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I can believe that some advantages would be had for outdoor ceremonies which would allow the public at large to see the ceremony, but not anywhere. There should be reasonable access for the public - perhaps a test should be could a wheelchair user reasonably get to see this outdoor ceremony?

But ceremonies in private homes, inland waterways or 'in the air' (even a hot air balloon?!!) would not be appropriate for a legally binding wedding ceremony after which spouses would expect to benefit from important areas of public policy such as the inheritance tax exemption between spouses. Hence I don't think private homes (including gardens), aircraft, hot air balloons or inland waterways would be appropriate venues. Perhaps the open deck of a ship moored alongside a wharf is visible to the general public but I don't think being on the move is appropriate.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again I think if a couple wish to benefit from a legally binding wedding ceremony for inheritance tax, they should marry in a publicly visible ceremony.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but only if the venue meets a test of being publicly accessible.

I don't think this is about wheelchair access to every possible venue everywhere, but rather the principle that the ceremony has an open door.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think a suitable test for outdoor venues should be low background noise and reasonable wheelchair access, so not at the end of a busy runway, not up a mountain, not in a private house or in an aeroplane, and not somewhere likely to trivialise the ceremony e.g. certain funfair or amusement arcades.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes for indoor venues. I think outdoor venues should meet accessibility criteria as well.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the intention is to stop sham marriages being done by corrupt officiants, I agree.

Otherwise I wouldn't want church of England ministers to be in the dock over complex legal matters concerning people they haven't known for any length of time.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The ability of the terminally ill person to freely consent must be established. Also some kind of interview about the relationship to try and stop sham marriages for immigration and inheritance tax purposes only.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only on larger passenger vessels, to maintain the principle that the ceremony be visible and public.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think only the master or Captain of a large passenger vessel should be able to officiate, and must personally agree to do so.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some reasonable time limit seems appropriate if the couple expect to benefit from the inheritance tax exemption between spouses.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCA-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 12:20:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I attended a very happy wedding in the summer when 30 people were allowed to attend.. It was an older couple for whom a small wedding was ideal.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious and should be entered into with careful thought. Residency in an area would presumably prevent people from turning up somewhere and expect to get married on the spur of the moment.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

As previously stated, marriage is serious and should be for life so measures should remain in place for it never to be undertaken spontaneously without serious thought.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is much easier to read body language and see if there are outside influences in an in-person interview. Remote interviews could easily miss important signals. This should not be too difficult to arrange and should be part of this very serious commitment.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think both parties should be seen. I believe that forced marriages still occur and women (I don't think it's ever men, in this case. But, if so, men as well.) should be protected.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be displayed everywhere possible.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand enough to answer this question.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The couple should be allowed to refuse a substitute if they're happy to wait for the original to become available.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be published in as many places as possible, especially where the wedding is going to take place.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know what those rules are but common sense should prevail.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Publish in as many places as possible. This should be easy with the internet.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, both of the above to prevent abuse of the system, economic and forced marriages.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, another safety net.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I would have thought both would be good.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More than one would be a safer option.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if they have been trained well.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this could lead to all sorts of organisations with inappropriate beliefs being responsible for a very serious institution. I think this could demean marriage in a very damaging way. Religious organisations answer to God which should prevent the dignity of marriage from being compromised.

Please share your views below:

None. Where would you draw the line? See above.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be open to abuse.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. That would not be good for the country or the couple.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. Naming individuals is safer as I hope that means they are then vetted as an individual.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Does this not happen at the moment?

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too dangerous: what do they believe? And how easily marriage could be debased.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be more safeguards in place to ensure that the officiant is "fit and proper". How is that defined anyway? Interpretations could vary hugely.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As explained above, I think the system is good at the moment with only a limited number of people allowed to officiate. These people are in a responsible position and the system works very well. Why change it to a system which could be open to abuse?

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This serious office should not be a money-making affair. Reasonable fees are fine but no limits would result in all sorts of consumer-led, materialistic weddings.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants should not be permitted.

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That is a very subjective opinion. If the officiant is passionate about wildlife they may well think that a marriage in a zoo is dignified. I would disagree with that and can imagine there are even less dignified situations (a graveyard?). It's totally subjective.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I assume this is done already.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Still much too subjective.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no independent officiants, as above.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1a suggests that you could now get married without being present in person ("or otherwise"). An oral declaration is important as it means the person is present and hopefully declaring publicly that this is their wish. This is very important as is the wording of what is said to avoid the marriage ceremony being debased and belittled.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should remain a serious and dignified matter. This is such a subjective proposal that all sorts of undignified ceremonies would occur. It would be very difficult/ impossible for the officiant to refuse as he would have no objective measure to use.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Civil weddings work well at the moment. They are dignified, serious ceremonies which, in my experience, do not need to be changed.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand the question but think that it's fine to allow a religious ceremony after a civil service.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such serious ceremonies should not be conducted behind closed doors. Closed doors suggest there may be something to hide.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the air? In a zoo? In a strip club? Marriage is a serious matter and would be debased by taking place in a "fun" location.

Please share your views below:

Where would you draw the line? Certainly not in the air or in private homes.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The religious venue should have to agree to their premises being used.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too subjective.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too subjective

No

Please expand on your answer:

Still too subjective.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above: other locations should not be allowed.

Please share your views below:

It would not work well.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure but maybe just as a back-up. Not as an alternative.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2) and 3) should legally invalidate a marriage just as they would any other legal process.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Very open to abuse.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not as far as I know though I would question the need for someone to marry in prison. They can surely wait, and it would appear that some marry because the non-detained person has fallen in love with an (odd) ideal. They cannot know each other well unless they knew each other before imprisonment.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure of the implications. Every safeguard should remain in place.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure.

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that marriage should ever be undertaken remotely.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

None. It seems to make marriage less serious, especially if the sea is rough and everyone is being sick or can't stand up.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Thy should not be allowed anyway.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No. I think that people are happy with what is allowed at the moment. It reflects the seriousness of marriage. There would only be demand if it were allowed then all sorts of venues would be demanded and marriage debased.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Compassion is good.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD2D-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 12:24:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Wedding Celebrancy Commission

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

The information we submit here does not need to be treated confidentially

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable as we are an organisation

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable as we are an organisation

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable as we are an organisation

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable as we are an organisation

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable as we are an organisation

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable as individuals as we are an organisation.

However, all WCC member organisations have found the Covid situation very difficult in terms of issuing appropriate guidance to celebrants and help to couples. This was mainly due to celebrant-led ceremonies not being specifically referred to in the guidance issued from government, whereas religious ceremonies were mentioned specifically.

Member organisations also report dealing with very upset couples who were unable to get help from local authority register offices when trying to sort out their wedding plans during lockdown.

It has been, and remains, a very difficult time for all celebrants whose income has ceased and very frustrating trying to unravel conflicting guidance.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

##### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree this requirement should be abolished.

This will make it easier for overseas couples wanting to marry here. At present the law makes it expensive financially and in terms of time to comply with the residency requirement and deters couples from marrying here at all.

##### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree. To give notice online and attend an interview later makes it much easier for couples.

##### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Three days should allow enough time for required paperwork, as well as lessening the burden on couples from overseas.

##### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

We think this is an appropriate power to include.

If, in the future, it is needed then this power could be of great benefit to couples.

Yes, a face to face interview option is going to be necessary if a sham or forced marriage is suspected.

##### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Our view would be to continue these exceptions. To stop these existing exceptions would restrict some couples and go against the proposals to make the whole process of marrying easier.

##### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We totally agree. The current system is very out of date and inappropriate as notices displayed in Register Offices are hardly looked at these days. A far more suitable and accessible system would be online.



Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This we believe is a suitable time frame.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. The officiant should definitely be named so that it can be clarified that they are authorised.
2. Yes definitely, a revised schedule detailing the new officiant should be provided in cases where a couple changes their celebrant, but the system of doing this would need to be speedy and quite straightforward.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this is a very sensible proposal as such events will occur.

Please share your views below:

We think there could be other instances where a substitute officiant might be needed. These might include: family emergency relating to the death or illness of a close family member or a form of domestic crisis, and there may well be other instances.

However, it is worth noting that existing celebrants mostly already operate with a circle of colleagues for just such emergencies and unforeseen situations. They are therefore likely to be able to locate and propose a substitute authorised officiant in these instances.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that this is no longer appropriate.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this is clearly outdated and should be repealed.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

We disagree that banns should be required to only be published in the church where the wedding is to take place, we think they should be able to be published in any church.

The proposals here seek to make the whole process of getting married easier, so a wider view in making it possible to have banns read anywhere is preferred.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. We think that this may be difficult to implement as infrastructure is lacking to carry out such checks. It could be extremely burdensome so we would prefer that this is not required.
- 2). This would seem to be against the aim of simplifying the process so we do not agree that the clergy should be required to meet with the couple separately.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This is felt to be a matter for the Anglican church.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

We wholeheartedly support the proposal that ALL weddings are preceded by civil preliminaries. This will do so much to make the whole system easier and more understood by couples.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We totally agree to proposals 1, 2, and 3.

It will be important that all authorised officiants are totally clear about how consent is given, that all other requirements are met and that the schedule is signed.

They will have undergone mandatory training on their rights and responsibilities regarding these elements. They will understand their legal duty and the offences that could apply if they fail in their duty (discussed in these proposals) will have been impressed upon officiants during their mandatory training.

The resulting system would be more straightforward and easily understood by couples as well as officiants.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree and feel it would be inappropriate and confusing if registrars were to carry out other types of weddings.

When considering this type of 'overlap', there is a question that arises about whether registration officers should also be able to act as independent celebrants.

This gives rise to further questions. Could, or should they, legally be prevented from doing so? Should they only be able to operate outside their employing local authority area? We would like to see some consideration of these issues if possible as this question will arise.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We totally agree. This will provide cost savings for Local Authorities and for couples as there is no need for two officiants to be paid to attend a wedding. It is perfectly possible, and more sensible, for one registration officer to officiate.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We feel that the situation should remain as is now and clerks in Holy Orders should be recognised as officiants by virtue of their office.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, these organisation should have the responsibility for nominating their officiants and a public list made available.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We think the term 'secular' needs defining carefully as there are potential issues here.

The suggested definition is probably the best available at the present time, however there is a concern around a definition for organisations calling themselves 'non-religious belief' organisations. If the definition is too wide then lots of organisations with 'dubious' ideas and frameworks will spring up purely with the intention of conducting legal marriages. If the definition is too tight then it will deter genuine organisations.

Please share your views below:

We feel that a list is very difficult to create as there will always be exceptions, the emphasis needs to be more on the criteria for becoming such an organisation.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. We think that 20 is too low a number of members and suggest that at least 50 would appear to be a more suitable minimum number.

However, more important than a membership number is the overall criteria for being a religious or non-religious belief organisation.

2. We agree that the organisation should have a wedding service or a sincerely held belief about marriage. However, it will be important that the organisation has a very 'real' non-religious belief, far wider than issues just around marriage, that its members really believe in. The main aims and activities of such an organisation should focus on its belief system and the promotion of that.

We would also ask about potential monitoring or checks on such organisations. It is possible that such an organisation could become accepted as a non-religious belief organisation and after a period of time drop their activities around their belief system and simply promote their officiants to conduct weddings. We would suggest a consideration around monitoring this.

We would also ask if consideration has been given to a minimum length of time that such an organisation needs to have been established as this could deter organisations being formed for the wrong reasons.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes we agree that any organisation that promotes unlawful purposes or those contrary to public policy or morality should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

As long as such organisations keep up to date lists then there should be no issue with officiants being nominated by office in addition to named individuals.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that the Registrar General's Office is the right office to have the responsibility for the public list of nominated officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes we most definitely agree.

There are so many reasons why independent celebrants should have the ability to be authorised and included on the public list of officiants. These include:

- Couples themselves need to be the top priority and this would give them a much-needed choice in who conducts their wedding ceremony. It is very clear that celebrants are increasingly chosen by couples to lead their ceremony, indicative of the needs and wishes of today's couples. The celebrant sector would not be growing as it is if the couples were not choosing them to lead their ceremony.

- Celebrants can include different cultural and faith elements in a ceremony that can be tailored to the couple's exact needs. Couples with differing faiths really need this option, it is the only one they have.
- Celebrants having the ability to conduct legal marriage will attract more couples to get married, as they will be able to have the ceremony they really want.
- Celebrants are increasing in number, adding benefit to the economy, so enabling them to conduct legal marriage will grow the sector still further, including attracting more couples from overseas and lessening the number of couples from England and Wales choosing to marry overseas.
- England and Wales is out of step (and far behind) other countries where independent celebrants have been successfully conducting legal marriages for years.
- This would make the countries of the UK more similar to each other in how marriages are conducted.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance will be needed on what constitutes 'fit and proper' but this is definitely a criteria that is needed.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The mandatory training provided by the Registrar General's Office will obviously be very important for officiants.

The Wedding Celebrancy Commission (WCC) represents celebrants in England and Wales and offers any assistance to the Registrar General's Office in creating the mandatory training that will be required. The WCC Executive Council includes organisations which train the majority of celebrants in the UK (and some across the English-speaking world).

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is agreed that the belief system of religious and non-religious belief organisations should be paramount, and they should therefore not make a profit from conducting weddings.

We would like to ask however if there are any thoughts on how this could be monitored.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent celebrants will need to run their celebrancy business independently and fees do not need to be limited as market forces will prevail.

However, further consideration of what in fact would be seen as a conflict of interest is required. Some independent celebrants may also provide other services such as catering or own a venue. Guidelines on how they may or may not act will be important to include in the mandatory training provided.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples must not be confused by what type of officiant an individual is, therefore we agree that this sort of cross over should not be possible.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that officiants should have this responsibility.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree it would be very appropriate for the General Register Office to issue this guidance.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree. The nominating organisation should have this responsibility.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree absolutely that the General Register Office should have this power and be able to step in where the nominating body fails to act appropriately.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We totally agree. Additionally we suggest there should be an effective complaints procedure if a problem is raised, which may be through a complaint from a couple. The method of complaining needs to be easy and quick and the response and action taken fast and appropriate.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We fully agree that continuing professional development is essential and if a celebrant fails to comply with the requirements then their authorisation should indeed lapse.

The Wedding Celebrancy Commission offers to assist with information on potential additional elements of continuing professional development that might apply to independent officiants, if this would be helpful.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree totally with all these proposals. The concept of consent in this document has been considered in great depth and is clear and easy to understand.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal fully, this will give couples much more choice.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This was extensively discussed by members of WCC .

Our experience informs us that if a couple decides NOT to have their ceremony led by a religious officiant, and they choose a civil ceremony, then large amounts of religious content are unlikely to be requested. We agree the ceremony should always be identifiable as a civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

As stated above, couples choosing a civil ceremony will not tend to ask for overly religious content. However, anything that involves individuals pledging themselves to God (essentially an 'act of worship') is not felt to be appropriate in a civil ceremony. However, religious readings, hymns, prayers and the use of symbols and religious music should be permitted.

Many couples with differing faith backgrounds turn to celebrants as it is the only way they can include elements from both faiths, which is one reason why there should be as little restriction as possible. However, clear guidance would need to be provided by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that this should be repealed.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is outdated and o longer appropriate and should be repealed.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We totally agree. Weddings should be able to take place anywhere. The existing system of approved venues restricts ceremonies to approved premises.

However, there will need to be some guidance for nominated officiants about what to look for in approving a location. The Wedding Celebrancy Commission is well placed and willing to assist with examples of ceremony locations that are requested.

Please share your views below:

We think that there should be no limitations on these categories of venue. The officiant is best placed to assess the location. Health and safety, and other relevant checks, will be made by them under the proposed system.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that this is not an appropriate requirement today.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If these restrictions are not introduced then potentially guests and even couples could be confused about what sort of ceremony is being held.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants will be by far the best people to have this responsibility.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal fully.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes the General Register Office is best placed to deliver this guidance.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that there should be a pre-approval process, it makes sense to do this.

It is important that the process looks very different to the current licensing process so that venues understand the difference and it does not simply become the current system under a different name because this will continue to limit choice and options for couples.

Please share your views below:

1) Local Authority Registration Services are best placed to create and maintain such a listing.

2) We believe it should have a base of the current venues already approved for marriages with this feeding into a national online register. To stay on the pre-approved listing an ongoing assessment, say every 3 years, could be carried out.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with these proposals.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this appropriate and sensible proposal.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with all these proposals.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree totally that both 1. and 2. above should be offences.

There is also a question here about monitoring and policing and we would refer again to the establishment of a speedy and effective feedback and complaint system, also mentioned elsewhere.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

We would just like to mention that nominated officiants could work in hospitals and hospices. These individuals would be ideally placed to assist couples wanting to marry where one or both are incapacitated or on an end of life care pathway.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree as this proposal would make the process simpler and easier.



Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the light of the Covid experience with weddings, these proposals seem very sensible.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

We agree that weddings should be able to take place in international waters on any suitable vessel, which could include canal boats, paddle steamers, lifeboats, ferries, yachts, cruisers and military vessels, which are all examples of possible vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes we agree as the rules proposed for independent celebrants would be very appropriate for maritime officiants. Can we ask if it is proposed that maritime officiants could also be approved as independent officiants and vice versa, on the basis that the same rules will apply to them?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We feel this would be a matter for religious groups to comment upon.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree but would add the fee needs to be 'reasonable'.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

On compassionate grounds we prefer to see as low a fee as possible.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We really do feel that an national fee should apply in this case to ensure marriage is affordable to all couples.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that a cost recovery basis should be the basis for settings this fee but wide variations in fees between local authorities are bound to occur if not monitored.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We do agree with the proposal but would encourage a more nationally determined fee to avoid wide variations in charges.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal for a standardised hourly rate. The effect of this measure would be to keep the fees charged at a reasonable level.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

On compassionate grounds we would support no fees to be payable when a party is terminally ill.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with this proposal and WCC offers to assist in any way possible in a consideration of the type of fees that might be payable by independent celebrants wishing to become nominated officiants.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1) The Wedding Celebrancy Commission believes that current marriage law definitely discourages couples from marrying in many ways which include the following:

- Civil marriage processes are currently bureaucratic, lengthy and complicated and couples don't always understand them.
- Appointments at register offices and visiting them during their opening times can be difficult for couples under the current system.
- Limitations on venues means that couples cannot have their wedding in a location personal to them, such as their parent's home.
- Couples wanting to hold a statutory '2 x 2' ceremony often find this is difficult and very restricted to obtain.
- In many cases it is very expensive to hold a wedding at an approved venue under current law so many couples will not in fact marry at all because of this.
- If a celebrant - led ceremony is required then couples have to hold two events, and usually these have to be on different days. The Wedding Celebrancy Commission has a vast amount of information about the difficulties couples experience with this system - couples really dislike this system and desperately want just one event at one location and time on one date.
- Ceremony content is limited - couples want more choice in ceremony content which they want to be more personal. They often want to reflect differing faiths and cultures, recognising their individual backgrounds and want the content to be totally personal and unique in this and many other ways.
- Who can legally marry a couple is highly restricted under the current law. Couples cannot have an independent celebrant or a person from a non-religious belief organisation conduct their legal marriage. Therefore, they are less likely to marry at all.
- Current law is outdated and inappropriate in many areas and is out of step with marriage law in much of the rest of the world and even in the UK, especially Scotland and Northern Ireland.

2) Undoubtedly lifting the current legal restrictions in line with the proposals in this document will address the effects listed in 1) above and more couples will choose to marry and have the ceremony that they really want.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. All members of the Wedding Celebrancy Commission are in regular contact with practicing wedding celebrants and have numerous examples to hand detailing how availability and costs of register office weddings affects couples seeking to marry. Stephanie Pywell's well documented research into '2 x 2' weddings supports WCC members' awareness and knowledge of this issue.

It difficult to book a 2 x 2 marriage, and virtually impossible to find any details of them on many council websites. Couples have be very determined to have a 2 x 2 statutory ceremony, which of course they are entitled to.

Very limited dates, times and locations are available in many registration districts and the practice of deregistering marriage rooms so they become approved venues, with associated higher fees for hiring them, is now in virtually all areas.

2. Approved venues currently pay fees to be 'approved' as a venue suitable for legal marriage. These additional costs are then passed on to couples. Venues then need to hold a certain number of weddings to justify the fees they have paid. So only larger and more expensive venues are usually 'approved premises', restricting choice for couples.

If couples choose a non-approved venue, they must hold two events to become legally married. Not a good choice for couples.

3. This is really a matter for the various religious organisations as the costs incurred will vary enormously.

4. Couples can hold a ceremony that is not legal, such as a celebrant-led ceremony, in non-approved venues and do the formalities with a register office '2 x 2' ceremony. This is costly but still could be cheaper for couples than having the whole event at a venue approved for legal marriage. The cost implications are currently a minefield for couples trying to work within a budget.

5. Making couples who want a celebrant-led ceremony have two events as stated above, which is more expensive for them in terms of travel costs etc. It is also more difficult to arrange and decide who should attend. Couples really do not like this system and just want one event.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Register office weddings will still be available under these proposals. Some couples will of course just want the 'statutory only' type of ceremony. A cost saving will be made by only using one officiant and, in theory, registrars will be more readily available to conduct weddings, as only one will be required.

Moving away from 'approved venues', means that the deregulated marriage rooms offered by local authorities will more subject to market forces as these local authority owned ex-marriage rooms will have to compete in the wedding venue market as any other room for hire.

2. This will lead to really significant cost savings for couples. Many couples will choose a private home or outdoor location for their wedding. They will no longer have to go around the list of local approved venues and pick one! They will be able to decide what really works for them. This will be a huge benefit.

3. Without the need to travel to have a separate legal ceremony or have registrars attend a venue just to do the legal formalities, couples will experience large cost savings, the opportunity to have the wedding they want, when and where they want it and delivered by the person they want to deliver it! The flexibility provided by removing the need for a separate legal wedding is very significant indeed.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. The current law on marriage is expensive for couples as approved venues are costly. Venue costs are such a large part of overall wedding costs that it prevents couples going ahead with marriages as they just cannot afford it. The smaller, cheaper venues cannot afford local authority fees so do not become 'approved'.

2. Two registrars attending a wedding at a weekend is costly, but many couples believe they have no other choice. Registrar availability is limited, and dates need to be booked often years in advance to ensure a couple can have the time and date they require.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. For venues to host weddings without lengthy and complicated pre-approval processes is a MUCH preferred system for couples, for all venues and for the wedding industry as a whole.

The flexibility this will provide is just what is required and it will make currently unavailable locations readily available and will create far greater choice for couples. A scheme that benefits everyone.

2. Registration officers should become more available to conduct weddings as there will only be one registrar required.

3. This will have a huge impact for couples and the wedding industry as a whole. In particular, independent celebrants work alongside couples in professional, creative and flexible ways. By allowing freedom of location, couples will truly be able to have the wedding that they want to have, where they want it, not just what they can have under the current restrictions.

4. Undoubtedly the wedding industry, with venues alone thought to be worth currently £5 billion p.a. (upwards of 1/3 of the value of the £15 billion wedding industry p.a.) will grow rapidly in terms of number of venues hosting weddings if these proposals are implemented. This will generate huge growth in business opportunities which will positively affect the economy as a whole.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law allows local authorities to charge high fees for hiring decommissioned marriage rooms and for registrars attending approved venues to conduct marriages.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Whilst fees from approved venues may be less, local authorities will be able to offer a less restricted service themselves. They will be able to conduct weddings in other locations including outdoors and be a more attractive choice to couples who may choose to use their service, without being compelled to do so.

Additionally, there are other elements of these proposals, such as the organising of a pre-approved location listing where new income can be received.

If only one registrar is required to conduct each ceremony then they will be able to conduct more ceremonies, thus potentially increasing revenue for the local authority.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The current law continues to drive couples away from England and Wales to other countries to marry, not least to Scotland. For all the reasons set out in this document, marrying in England and Wales is not an easy process and does not give couples the choice they currently demand.
2. Current law in England and Wales is not inviting to couples. They cannot currently get married how they wish, in places they wish, or by who they wish and are too restricted in all respects.

The current residency laws also put off a lot of couples.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Freeing up who can conduct marriages, the locations they can be held and establishing simpler preliminaries will greatly reduce the number of couples travelling elsewhere to marry.
2. The attractiveness of England and Wales as a wedding destination under these proposals will escalate hugely. It will become easier to marry here and have the type of wedding required in any location.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently couples are prevented from being legally married on UK registered ships if they are in international waters. This reduces this market sector considerably and does not therefore attract ships to be registered in the UK.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The effect on the maritime industry and ships being registered in the UK can only be positive in all respects if these proposals are implemented

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. The Office of the Registrar General will incur administrative costs in setting up a system for authorising nominated officiants. However, fees charged should more than cover this.

Local authorities will save by only using one registrar to conduct a marriage as this will be more cost effective for them. They will lose the approved venue fees but will be able to charge for setting up the pre-authorised venues listing and have more opportunity to promote their wedding services in wider locations.

2. All businesses in the wedding industry will benefit from these proposals as they give greater flexibility of venue and will attract more couples from overseas to marry here. New businesses will be encouraged to set up and the economy will benefit as a result.

3. It is certainly the case that 'proper' non-religious belief organisations will benefit from these proposals as, if implemented, their members will be able to have the ceremony they wish.

4. Independent celebrants are a growing market sector of mainly self-employed small businesses. A conservative estimate of turnover on weddings (£46 million p.a.) means there are 3700 celebrants conducting approx 25 ceremonies p.a. @ £500 per). This will increase if these proposals are accepted. Celebrants who become authorised officiants will undoubtedly grow their businesses. Demand already exists from couples for celebrant-led ceremonies, reflecting how many there are now practicing.

The volume of ceremonies conducted by celebrants will increase, again conservatively estimated as 40% in the first full year. This will improve the financial situation of hundreds of small businesses in England and Wales.

5. Couples are the people who benefit financially more than anyone if these proposals are implemented as they would then be able to have the wedding they want with the person they want leading it and for a cost that they determine and realistically afford.

They will save money by not having to use approved venues, many will use private homes and outside locations and the cost saving will be huge for them in just location costs. They will not have to pay for two registrars to attend their ceremony or have two ceremonies at different locations. They will benefit hugely!

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCG-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 12:29:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

██████

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst some churches have their own registration officers (for example, the minister of the church or a deacon), some churches do not and are reliant on the local civil registrar to attend, as they do not have their own authorised person (often because weddings are held infrequently). By changing the law to allow registration officers only to officiate at civil weddings, it effectively removes the ability of small churches and other religious settings to hold weddings. One of the Law Commission's stated goals in seeking this consultation is that "the ceremony that is meaningful to the couple should be recognised by law" - for practising Christians and other people of various faiths, the most 'meaningful' wedding possible is one celebrated before God in the presence of their congregation.

This change would have directly impacted my church at the time that I got married, since it is small, independent and holds weddings infrequently.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Whilst this initially sounds reasonable, unfortunately there is a risk that this could be manipulated by current or future governments or litigators to impede the religious freedoms of churches and other communities of faith that adhere to traditional teachings in accordance with their holy scriptures. The 'test' should focus on objective criteria - such as restricting organisations that actively promote terrorism or advocate the violent overthrowing of democracy. Vague references to 'morality' invite the possibility of ill-defined criteria and modern whims being allowed to disrupt, restrict or overrule the operations of religious adherents. For example, would a small Christian church that adheres to the teachings in the Bible that same-sex marriage is not 'marriage' - that marriage is strictly between one man and one woman - be classified as behaving "immorally" by future litigants?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At present, there is no "market" for authorised persons to conduct/register marriages. This proposal would create such a market, which would serve to degrade the institution of marriage. Independent officiants can currently conduct weddings that are not legally binding. These have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en. Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs. Such ceremonies could be legally binding if independent officiants were allowed, undermining the dignity of marriage. Further, it creates financial incentives for 'independent officiants' to push whatever the defined boundaries of legality are in order to satisfy the whims of potential 'customers.'

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Prescribed words' serve as a safeguard to ensure that couples enter into marriage freely. Commitment to marriage is serious business, and the common language across the land in the form of prescribed words helps to maintain the legal, formal, nature of the act of marriage. Prescribed words form only a very small part of the wedding ceremony; there is already plenty of scope for other personal/customised words or acts to be incorporated into couples' wedding ceremony and wedding day. There is no need to remove prescribed words and in doing so, there is serious risk that marriage would be diminished within society; 'marriage' as a status could move toward, effectively, being nothing more than a certificate issued by the government. Further, in instances where the celebrant was not known to the couple being married, there is an enhanced risk of one or both parties to the marriage marrying under duress, since there would be reduced opportunity for them to express their objection.



Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective. It will not prevent couples finding an officiant to agree to even the most outlandish wishes. There is already significant scope for wedding ceremonies to be personalised to the couple's desires.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is not a 'private' event in that it is a public declaration of the joining of one man and one woman to be a union that benefits all of society. Maintaining the possibility of a 'public' presence at the wedding ceremony helps to protect vulnerable persons from the horrors of 'sham' or 'forced' marriage, or other malpractice such as bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst there could be clear benefits for people of faith (many churches do not own their own building and operate in rented premises or venues hired by the hour). However, it is unclear in the wording of the proposal what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed? The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding. The Law Commission has made it clear it does not object to 'airborne' weddings, which makes it difficult to see how suitable definitions of 'dignified' or 'safe' are proposed - they could be interpreted very broadly indeed, to the point of being unfit for purpose. Unofficial weddings have been conducted underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en. Such settings clearly trivialise marriage. The law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCB-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 12:38:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Maidenbower Baptist Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Complicated and sometimes distressing. While we had no weddings planned in the church itself, we know a number of people who struggled with the restrictions, often having to change their plans repeatedly and significantly.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

While the requirement might seem arbitrary and awkward to some, it provides a measure of protection for those who might be pressured or forced, especially at short notice, into a marriage which they do not wish to enter.

### Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I query whether a remote interview provides a legitimate opportunity to assess the possibility of sham or forced marriages.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This seems sensible.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person. In some (especially smaller) churches, the authorised person(s) may not always have the experience of or familiarity with the process. A registration officer provides a measure of formality, validity, and clarity in many such cases.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I should be interested to know why this is restricted to the Church of England and the Church in Wales, and not to other denominations.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This might hinder smaller and/or independent churches from conducting weddings.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That seems very broad. What if 'a sincerely held belief about marriage' is dangerous, damaging, detrimental to well-being? What if it denies the essential meaning and intent of marriage? Who is defining marriage?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

While I appreciate the concern, in line with the response above, there is a danger that such a policy could become a means for penalising moral views that contradict prevailing and/or shifting popular opinion. Popular culture is increasingly at odds with faithful biblical teaching on marriage, sexual ethics and identity. A concern for purposes 'contrary to public policy or morality' is too subjective. Unpopular but entirely legal views could mean that some organisations are excluded from nominating officiants. More objective criteria need to be identified, such as promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to undermine the significance and weight of marriage, and risks turning marriage into a commercial enterprise or a shallow and confusing ceremony in which the nature of marriage and the weight and clarity of the commitment being made are severely compromised.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depending on the training offered, this still seems quite shallow.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I doubt that this would be particularly effective.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I see the sense in this, but I would be concerned at the possibility of abuse in some cases. Even language of 'reasonableness' could be used to prevent the charging of exorbitant fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to prevent a marriage-making business!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, but this proposal seems to run counter to a number of others, all of which seem likely to undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage. It allows for a wedding ceremony to be as meaningful or meaningless as anyone might wish. Meaningful vows provide for a substantial covenant in—using any or no words denies this substance and compromises the commitment which helps to make marriage what it is. Prescribed words assist in establishing and framing the significant legal and personal elements of the ceremony in a formal way, in a properly public way, and there is already a great deal of flexibility around those prescriptions which allow for personal preference to be expressed. The prescribed words are brief; any genuine wedding should be able to incorporate them. Marriage is not solely a private agreement, but a public and civil engagement, and the legal element of prescribed words helps to communicate that.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I find this amusing. Is it saying that you can pretend to have a certain kind of wedding without actually having to believe or practice any of the convictions which underscore the forms?

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I should be interested to know how this will be governed.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement underlines the civil and societal importance of marriage, and also serves to protect marriages from taking place against the will of the participants or in a manner which is illegal.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I appreciate the value of expanding the range of venues, but question how opening it up completely will help to ensure that the dignity and solemnity and perhaps even credibility and validity of marriage will be preserved in wedding ceremonies that can happen literally anywhere. More precise language might be needed to ensure that venues are fit and proper places for such an event.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

I think that outdoor weddings can be valid, and private homes may on occasion be helpful or necessary venues, but some of these provisions—unless specified carefully—could lead to frivolous or insubstantial ceremonies, in which the dignity and solemnity of the vows being made is undermined or lost in the event itself.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF16-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 13:00:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

NA

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Recongised marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

NA

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The majority of couples have been very accepting of the restrictions put in place, if they have gone ahead with the ceremony.

Although most couples have postponed their ceremonies until the restrictions are lifted.

However a couple of venues have pushed back on the restrictions and one have held receptions for more than the restrictions allow on a regular basis.

One venue disagreed about our request to change the ceremony room around in order to provide better ventilation for ourselves and to prevent us from walking through the guests, however the venue did agree after a few discussions and ceremonies have continued within the rules of the restrictions.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current requirements are there for a reason, these requirements have prevented illegal ceremonies which could be due to many reasons, and therefore prevents upset and prosecutions down the line

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it is import to be seen face to face in order to prevent incorrect or false documents being presented. We are also front line in preventing weddings for immigration purposes, seeing people face to face is important in the prevention of these crimes as you can ask more questions if in doubt in order to flush out these crimes.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I have to go back to my previous answer about the current regulations being in place, work and are fit for purpose, 28 days (unless extreme circumstances apply, in which arrangements can be made) is perfectly acceptable in order to ensure that all parties have presented the correct paperwork and the marriage is above board

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

When you say remotely, what do you mean. At present interview take place in an office environment which allows colleagues to leave the interview and confer with other colleagues if anything unusual is presented.

Also, if they were conducted remotely, would the registrar be expected to attend the home of the interviewees alone? If this was the case they could be bullied into doing the paperwork especially if it is a sham marriage.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This could work, again the interview should be conducted within the offices of a registration office

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although how do you determine risk?

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this could be a waste of time, if an official leaves the registration service, or is sick on the day, or their car breaks down on the way to the venue, this is just making the process more difficult.

Most couples accept that they will be married by a registrar, and don't even consider what their name is.

In the ceremony we are required to announce our names and where we are from.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I think you are making the process harder, as long a registrar arrives to conduct the ceremony the couples are happy

Please share your views below:

As long as two registrars arrive in good time to conduct the official wedding ceremony, then the couples are happy, you would be making more work to announce the officiant or the substitute officiant on the paperwork

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with Ireland because its a different country altogether, and if you continued to do it for Ireland you could argue that you would need to do it for Spain, Italy etc...

Scotland and Northern Ireland I have no opinion on

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You talk about putting officiants details on the paperwork, which I believe would cause too much hassle re staff changes etc...

Surely this is one area that if the church is damaged by war, which is highly unlikely, that churches have substitute churches where the marriage could be carried out named on the paperwork

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I have no issue with this, you can't publish everywhere

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree, sham marriages can happen in church as well

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think the system works well at the moment, so have no problem in continuing with the normal

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

When you say officiant, do you mean a member of the clergy as now, and a registrar or do you mean that any person could be classed as an officiant?

### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly, if the proposed changes to the registration of the marriage paperwork which were due to come in in 2020 went ahead then it would be possible for only one registrar to attend to officiate, however if these changes are not brought in and the register and certificate are to be continued to be issued at the ceremony, then two officiants are required.

### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Its a difficult one, we normally know who the priest or vicar of a church is, but how would we know who was officiating, and if they are adequately trained in all the correct declarations and contracting words that need to be spoken

### Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For every non-religious organisation, I think there would need to be a register of organisations and officiants, but that could continue to change, possibly quickly become out of date and would cause so many headaches in proving that someone has been trained in order to officiate at a wedding

Please share your views below:

The list could be endless, non-religious groups that spring to mind are groups like pagans etc., however what about devil worship groups, star trek groups, where is the line drawn, in today's culture of claiming discrimination you could end up in very deep water

### Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again I think you could be muddying the waters and have any group of 20 or more trying to hold wedding ceremonies.

At the moment ceremonies are carried out in churches or religious places of worship, or in approved venues, non religious groups meet anywhere, so where would these ceremonies be held?

### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Again a difficult one, Star Trek groups are not contrary to public policy or morality, but would could they be considered to be giving the marriage ceremony the dignity it requires, who would oversee this.

Again I believe you could be opening a can of worms re groups claiming discrimination, as you can't prove that God exists, you can't say that the devil doesn't exist and therefore can't discriminate against devil worshipping groups if they don't conduct themselves unlawfully.  
What about Hell's Angels communities, traveller camps etc....

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think they would have to, but again how quickly would this register become out of date, who you chase to update it.  
At the moment registrars are council employees, not just a member of a group and members of the clergy are ordained, so have a commitment to the role, members of groups are transient, which would make this list very quickly not worth the paper it's written on

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

So on one hand you wish for anyone to be able to conduct weddings, ie impacting on the revenue the registration service can make, but on the other we the registration service have to be responsible for this list, for probably no recompense, a list which could be for ever changing.  
How many groups do you believe could be on these lists, would we need to check every marriage and officiant against the list? What if the officiant named on the list was not available on the day, policing this would be a nightmare.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per my comments above

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who checks these people out, registrars trained, and not allowed to officiate until able to prove that they are ready to officiate. They have references taken as a council employee and are continually assessed, and are answerable to the council and general register office if in breach of any rules, how would these nominated people be assessed and brought to task if they don't follow the rules?

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, how are they assessed, they may only officiate on one or two weddings a year, and therefore forget major parts of the service/registration process

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My belief's don't come into my job, but I am allowed to earn from conducting ceremonies therefore the council makes a business out of providing the service. How would you stop agencies from doing the same by providing officiants, a president has already been set by the council so I believe you would have difficulty in stopping others.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To some extent, prices increase yearly, churches increase their prices, independent officials should be able to do the same, and if people wish to pay more for a particular one then so be it

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they don't who would?

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is not enough. A wedding is a verbal contract, there are specific words that need to be said by both parts of the couple, it is not guidance it is law.

But I ask again, who assesses if these officiants are always conducting the ceremonies correctly?

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiants are only given guidance, how would any member of the organisation know if they were not conducting the ceremonies correctly

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But if a ceremony is found to be conducted incorrectly, is it still valid, who decides.

At present, having two registrars attending the ceremonies, one ensures the other is conducting correctly so this eventuality doesn't happen

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that it needs to be overseen, but not sure we have the capacity to keep the list up to date and in order, without employing further staff. If we are still conducting weddings, how do we also attend the ceremonies to oversee and ensure compliance without further staff

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I believe that this list, and the compliance issues surrounding it would be a nightmare to police

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

So are you saying that a couple could be married by just signing a piece of paper, without a verbal ceremony?

The marriage ceremony has been used unchanged for many a year, its a tradition of this country, why does it need to be changed.

Would this remove the need for witness?

This gives raise to more questions than answers



Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, too many changes, each wedding would therefore be different, which can be done now, whilst still keeping the declaratory and contracting words. The proposed way would need the officiant to be aware of how each couple are proceeding which would lead to more paperwork

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If I am reading this correct, does this mean that a couple of Catholics could have a Jewish ceremony, why complicate the matter?  
If that was the case, who would officiate the ceremony, I can't see a Jewish rabbi wanting to conduct a non Jewish couples marriage, and I can't see them being happy for them to hold it in a synagogue either

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a difficult one, couples who are not allowed to marry in churches etc.. due to the rules of the clergy, might want to incorporate a prayer or reading from the bible into a civil ceremony, however, where do we draw the line in order to keep it identifiable as a civil ceremony?  
I also feel that the clergy might object to this, as they may end up losing business.

Please share your views below:

If we allow prayers and text reading from the bible it will quickly become a religious ceremony.  
What about hymns and singing?  
As soon as we allow some content, couples will push the boundaries for more and the registration service could receive more complaints, at the moment we both know where we start and where the church starts, we don't stand on each others toes and the system works

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not unless the church changes its rules on divorced couples marrying in church, you would be removing an option that couples use, again this would lead to complaints

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is a very rare for a ceremony to be stopped due to a member of the public having a legal objection.  
But it is an old English tradition one which I would not like to see removed, this is however a personal opinion

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The sanctity of marriage needs to be protected there are various places where to hold a ceremony would not uphold this basic feature.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors, getting an official to attend at the top of a mountain for instance could be problematic  
I have no objection to on lakes or rivers, as long as safety is taken into consideration  
In the air, again finding an officiant to go up in a hot air balloon, or onto a private jet could be problematic  
Private homes, need consideration, is a caravan considered to be a private home? If the changes are made and you work alone, safety needs to be a major consideration, especially in certain situations

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again as stated above, the ability for someone to stop an illegal wedding is an English tradition, however if the government approves some of these measures removing the public part of the ceremony will open up more places to marry which is maybe what some couples are looking for. Again, we need to ensure the sanctity of marriage is upheld in the consideration of 'anywhere'

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would just cloud the issue, I can't see many non religious couples wanting a religious setting, other than for aesthetic purposes, but that is where the clergy would probably object, so who would officiate?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the locations are opened up, how would the officiant be knowledgeable on all the locations, would the officiant be expected to visit the location beforehand?

If this was the case and they declined a person's home how would that be communicated and by whom, this could lead to unpleasant face to face confrontations with possible unfortunate risks

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, if the locations are opened up, without a prior visit to the proposed location how would the officiant know, and if it is not a safe and dignified place who tells the couple?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance needs to be given, but sometimes its a feeling not a ticking box exercise.

The address may hide the kind of location, and until you arrive you are unaware of what you are walking into.

A wedding should be a celebration, and I can't see that the official would be met by trouble, but we have procedures to follow and if we weren't prepared to allow the ceremony to go ahead for any reason our safety needs to be a priority

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That could work

Please share your views below:

The local registration office for that district should be able to access regularly used locations and approve their licence to marry

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These should be on the paperwork before it is signed, otherwise any information could be added, which could be false or incorrect

#### Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe that marriages should only be registered in Welsh, English yes and English and Welsh but not solely in Welsh

#### Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration already exists, we key all civil marriages on to the system now.

If you are talking about electronic registration at the time of the ceremony, and the ability to print the certificate of marriage at the ceremony, then that will give cause to all sorts of IT issues, along with wifi issues and printing problems, which would add to the officiants duties, and if any problems were encountered it would make us look unprofessional

### Chapter 10: Validity and offences

#### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Proof of number of 3 maybe difficult to obtain if the proposals go through, as the list could be ever changing

No

Please expand on your answer:

If you are removing the declaration, and or witnesses, and or the confirmation that you are legally free to marry and then don't sign the marriage document, how can it be considered legal

#### Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How long passes before you can no longer claim that the ceremony fell into the category of a non-qualifying ceremony?

Marriage as it stands at present requires the officiant to check the notice of marriage with each party before the ceremony, are you suggesting that this is also removed and if so why, checking that each party has completed the notice of marriage enables us to confirm the parties details, if one notice of marriage was missing the ceremony would not go ahead.

Proving b i could be difficult in a court of law, remember these are people you are dealing with and the question of their marriage being legal could result in pain to all parties including any children born within the marriage

#### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We can't make couples live together now after a ceremony, nothing changes in this respect

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You can't abolish a presumption.

Whether, the couple cohabit for a long period or if friends and family believe they are married is not the issue.

Common law does not make a partner a legal spouse, marriage does, there are reasons that couples marry and there are reasons that couples don't, to say that if you live with someone for 10 years then you are married is false, if they then spilt up do they have to get divorced even though they have never married?

#### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this is implemented, then yes it should be an offence

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe the current requirements lead to any problems, maybe the couples concerned would be better asked

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Even though one of the parties may have a terminal illness, the marriage still needs to be legal, conducting an illegal ceremony will only lead to issues, possibly after the death of the party

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the involvement of the Register General is a good thing, they are used to dealing with these issues and react quickly and professionally

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are not applying for a special licence, they can be married like any other couple

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they are unable to get married within the twelve months, then they should have to give a further notice like any other couple

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be in such extreme circumstances that I can't see it ever being used.  
Also, if everything is done remotely, the ability to abuse the system would be increased.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are charities out there who can provide the wedding free of charge for terminally ill couples, if no evidence was required this would be open to abuse.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as we are in our territorial waters, I can't see an issue.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst I agree that getting married on a cruise ship holds nice ideals, on whose list would the officiant be on, if the staff continually changes on each ship how would we know if the correct official is on the correct ship.

Providing an official from the registration service would be a near impossibility

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I refer to my previous answer regarding list of the official, and staff changes.

Providing an official to a submarine could be difficult, due to the confined space.

Other vessels could raise to sea sickness etc..

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So, how can the registration service ensure that the correct official has been used before the ceremony commences

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, how can we police this, if the named official is unwell, and unable to conduct, how do we know that someone hasn't stepped in and signed the correct officials name?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But, what a mess we would be creating for the couple, and again the legal mess of are we married or not could have serious complications if children have been brought into the marriage

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Non religious ceremonies would be better, if the couple is highly religious then they should not be considering the option of a wedding on a ship

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So we could be waiting for the marriage schedule for months, what if its lost is the marriage still valid?

It is not unusual for the couple to lose the marriage certificate on the day of the wedding, but because we have all the legal documents and the entry into the register they can obtain a copy without issue.

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although at present risk assessments are required due to covid, if we are to enter homes, would we/them have to be able to prove that the vaccine had been administered before attending?

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

But I still believe that evidence of terminal illness should be given in order to use this compassionate fee

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as it is then passed on to that officer, although at present this applies and is claimed by each officer for each ceremony attended

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Without bringing sympathies into this, a service is being provided which requires payment

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1) I don't believe it discourages couples from marrying, I have no evidence for this belief, however after working in the registration service for 18 months, ceremonies are constantly being booked, we don't have many quiet weeks in relation to marriages.

2) I don't think any changes would increase the rate of marriages, the present system is not a hard one to follow, does not discriminate and is available for all.

Couples marry for many reasons, and couples don't marry for many reasons, I don't believe changes in the way marriages are conducted will change how couples think

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) I think the current costs and availability of register office weddings is fair, we don't turn people away who wish to marry in this way

2&3) It is possible to have a wedding without incurring large costs, however if you choose to use an approved premise or a registered place of worship, then your costs will be more, the use of the building increases the cost and having a registrar attend a venue costs more, but it comes down to individual choice which is a good thing.

4&5) Again this comes down to personal choice, in both cases you would need to hold a legal ceremony normally at a register office and then use the desired location or a celebrant in order to complete your celebrations, which adds to the costs of the day, but if people want to do this you have to allow them the option.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) Register office weddings wouldn't change so I don't believe that there would be any savings there.

2) Locations and venues would still charge for the use of the building, apart from in private homes, I don't see many savings, as if the event was being held in a private home I can't see many of these just being the couple and their witnesses in the living room. If someone owns a large private home suitable for a wedding ceremony, they would be hiring in officials, venue decorators, caterers, cleaners etc... the cost of a wedding is not just about the legal side of getting married, there are very few lost cost 2 plus 2 weddings as we call them as most people want a day to remember

3) As soon as you start having two ceremonies one legal and one ceremonial, then costs increase, so again I can't see any savings.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1) venues pay for their license which allows them to hold ceremonies for 3 years, they don't have to have this license in order to hold wedding breakfasts and evening receptions, however if they wish to be able to provide the whole day experience for the couple many do. They increase the cost of the package for the couple if they do hold the ceremony with the venue, so not sure how they have missed opportunities. Depending, on how big the venue is depends on how many weddings they can hold in one day, small smaller ones can only hold one others can hold 3 or 4, so again unsure on how current laws impact on their opportunities.

2) The registration service never turns anyone away, they will bring in officers from other areas if they are struggling to fulfil their diary, and may have to offer a different time to the one the couple first requests, but it is very rare that couples can't have the day they require due to lack of officials. The costs of officials attending are no concern to the venues, as these costs are settled by the couple directly with the register office

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The current system is not preventative so I can't see how changing the process of getting married will change the number of people getting married. I don't have the evidence you require, apart from talking to people who are getting married, and they don't think about the process and who and where when they agree to getting married, most couples start with the register office, the process and fees for our services are explained and then they start looking at churches or venues.

Being an ex owner of a wedding venue, I never saw a couple who really wanted to get married in a hot air balloon, or any where without a license, but were settling for what they could have due to the current process.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities staff the register office, which also deals with births and deaths and recruit as and when is required.

As previously stated no couple is turned away, times may need to be changed, but on the whole if a couple want to get married on a particular day, then we do our best to ensure that that happens, even if it means bringing in staff from other offices.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can see the management of the list of approved officials being a complete nightmare, if this is extended to groups, when members change, when the official doesn't wish to do it any more, what happens when the named official is unable to conduct on the day for any number of reasons, does the marriage go ahead, does someone step in and then the ceremony is not valid, there are so many pitfalls to this suggestion that I believe more bad than good would come of it.

Whose responsibility is the training and continual assessment of these officiants, if this falls on the local authority, again this would be a massive undertaking.

Visiting private homes, or other locations in order to see if they are safe and fitting for the occasion, would also increase the workload.

The costs of the increased workload would need to be met, but by whom?

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1) At present residents of England and Wales can travel within England and Wales to get married without issue, I don't believe this has any impact on the couples.

2) If an overseas resident wishes to marry in England or Wales they just need to provide the correct paperwork to us in order for the marriage to go ahead, again I don't believe this causes issues within the couples

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As this is a very long survey, I can't remember seeing anything about changing the law on overseas residents getting married in England and Wales, please accept my apologies if this has been discussed.

We still need paperwork if overseas residents are getting married in England and Wales, I don't think this should be overlooked or changed.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't have enough knowledge of this to comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again, I don't have enough knowledge of the law and how the proposed changes would affect it to comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1) Thoughts on additional work costs need to be considered, as a lot of paperwork could be put on the local authorities, which would need to be recompensed

2) Can't see much impact

3) Religious probably no change, non-religious, the cost of adding or changing officiants may be incurred, but they would need to accept this if it applied.

4) Independent officials would pass on their costs plus more to the couple, so the only people apart from the local authorities who would be affected by higher costs are the couples



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCU-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 13:03:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Restrictions have caused repeated delays to clients' weddings

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The in-person interview should remain, but giving notice online / by post would be reasonable.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No.

It is important for all interviews to be in-person, so that interviewers can check all couples for issues around sham/forced weddings. This would be very difficult online.

If only some couples are asked to come in-person:

- This gives away to the couple that there are concerns, which gives them a chance to prepare to hide coercion, etc.
- This risks claims of racial/religious discrimination if some groups are called for in-person meetings more frequently (which may be valid, due to different cultural expectations around marriage and women's rights).

For couples who are having a 'real' marriage to come for an in-person interview is a minor inconvenience against a lifetime marriage, and a minor inconvenience to protect those who may be at risk.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In order to protect women against forced marriages, notices should only not be displayed where there is a real risk of harm, not just claimed.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

amendments should also be posted online

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but this should be monitored to check for unusual patterns of 'illness' which might indicate some abuse of this provision.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No need for changes here.

Publishing the banns is a good opportunity for the church family to remember and pray for the couple, particularly in situations where the couple are students (e.g. marrying straight after graduation), and they are often absent from their 'parish' churches.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes; it is good for clergy to take responsibility for those they are marrying

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

This is a long-standing tradition in the UK, and recognises the role of the church in marriage.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No; many smaller churches do not frequently hold weddings, and may lack an authorised person, or be less familiar with the legal requirements.

This change would mean that many couples would be unable to hold their weddings in these churches, and be forced to hold a separate civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This clause should also make reference to morals / ethics rising from their beliefs.

Please share your views below:

Yes; this would help separate 'serious' non-religious belief groups from other non-religious groups.

Organisations which do not amount to a non-religious belief organisation would include:

- Rights groups (e.g. unions, racial / sexual / gender – based rights groups)
- Political or advocacy groups
- Groups such as vegans who have strong beliefs, but these beliefs are not incompatible with other beliefs such as religious beliefs

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

20 seems low; whilst there are small churches, these would normally be part of a larger grouping (e.g. CoE, methodists, etc), so a requirement of say 50 or 20 + membership of a denomination/grouping of at least 500?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No, this clause is very vague, and could be easily used against religious or other groups who hold e.g. traditional views on marriage, or believe in sharia law.

Even if the government has no plans to use such a clause in this way, there are other groups (such as secular groups) who might seek to use such a clause against religious groups.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No; named individuals is important, so that individuals are vetted.

A rule based on office alone is also open to abuse as there is nothing to control how organisations appoint people to offices within their system.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no independent officiants.

Registrars and religious representatives who are authorised to conduct marriages are trained and likely to have strong views on the dignity and seriousness of marriage and the vows.

Independent officiants are likely to be part of the 'wedding industry', providing 'fun' ceremonies which do not take seriously the commitment of marriage. They would be paid, and this would mean that the wedding ceremony itself is also commercialised, which would increase costs for couples, and encourage Independent officiants to concoct increasingly wacky ceremonies to attract clients.

There is also a risk that Independent officiants may be used where a couple have been refused a ceremony by a religious group (e.g. if their belief or behaviour do not fit the religion). In contrast to a civil ceremony, an Independent officiant could misrepresent a religious group with a pseudo-religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should not receive any monetary compensation for officiating, though a small gift (flowers, etc) would be fine.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See also comments in (29). There should be no independent officiants.

Officiants should not receive any monetary compensation for officiating, though a small gift (flowers, etc) would be fine.

Even if the option to use a registrar remains, this would inevitably lead to increased costs for weddings for many couples.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should emphasise the dignity and solemnity of marriage, and the seriousness of lifetime vows.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proscribed words are the foundation of the declarations for a marriage. Without these, a wedding is potentially meaningless, and a legal marriage is simply a piece of paper.

Marriage is founded on a solemn and serious covenant between two parties. These proposals would remove the requirement for these promises. These vows must be taken seriously, and without the proscribed words, it would be easy to treat the ceremony casually.

The rest of the ceremony is already very flexible. There is no need to add additional flexibility by removing these words, and it is hard to imagine a serious ceremony in which these words cannot be included.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A legal wedding ceremony is a serious commitment, and not a fun, personalised experience. The rest of the ceremony and day provides plenty of scope for fun, personalised experience. Additional non-binding ceremonies can already be included.

This also makes it easy for couples to culturally misappropriate elements from other faith ceremonies.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This opens the door for cultural misappropriation of elements from faith ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public commitment, and the open doors requirement is important to this. This requirement also helps protect against forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Where a religious group does not own a venue (but e.g. uses a community centre or school, etc), these should be allowed as venues provided they are:

- regularly using this meeting place for public meetings
- the meeting place is not a private home

Otherwise, the removal of the requirement to register buildings risks any venue being used, which is very unlikely to ensure the seriousness of the ceremony & commitments are upheld.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

None of these venues should be permitted.

It is impossible for ceremonies on the water, in the air, or in private homes to maintain effective open doors.  
Outdoor ceremonies in the gardens of registered venues could be permitted, but not other outdoor locations.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In situations where religious and non-religious groups, or two different religious groups share a venue, (e.g. both hire the same hall regularly), then this should not be a problem, but otherwise, the prohibition should stand.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the GRO, and locations should be registered.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the GRO, and locations should be registered.

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the GRO, and locations should be registered.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the GRO, and locations should be registered.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

4) should be the failure of both or either party

No

Please expand on your answer:

The absence of witnesses or a failure to sign the schedule are serious and avoidable mistakes.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1bii) should be the failure of one or both parties

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it is quite possible for someone to be in an abusive relationship (and therefore unable to petition) for more than 3 years.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Validity of the schedule can be extended, but the ceremony should never be remote.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. There is no way for such ceremonies to maintain open doors.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. There is no way for such ceremonies to maintain open doors.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. There is no way for such ceremonies to maintain open doors.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. There is no way for such ceremonies to maintain open doors.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No.

There is no way for such ceremonies to maintain open doors.

Such ceremonies will detract from the serious and solemn nature of a marriage – a lifelong commitment, not a pleasure cruise.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Should be the same as other weddings

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Much of the proposals seek to make weddings more 'personalised', which, in practice, means expensive. This will increase costs, and thus reduce the number of couples getting married.

Even if cheap options remain, an increased expectation puts pressure on couples to spend more money.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCW-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 13:04:07

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There should be a means by which reasons for marrying are properly assessed.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could undermine the legitimacy of church weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why restrict this to only church of england. There are evangelical churches as well.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Why does government excessively desire to micro manage every aspect of everyones life. Run the country and let people live freely.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Government should leave the religious sphere to be supervised by God alone.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All celebrants should familiar with what the bible has to say about marriage. It should be a lifetime commitment til death.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone under 30 who is married should be deemed too young. No single person under 30 should be allowed to be a celebrant.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You should read the bible and get familiar with what it has to say about marriage.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No celebrants should be able to make profits on weddings under any circumstances. All weddings should be in a church setting.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a god given privilege and a commitment between a man and a woman only. Marriages should be church based.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The bible has all the information required in it. Perhaps you should read it.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All marriages should be conducted in a church setting.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Leave marriages to the churches.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be conducted in church settings. Non religious weddings are not valid before God.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be the ability for friends of the couples getting married attend by invitation.

## Chapter 7: Location



Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Churches, registry offices or hotels only.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All legitimate weddings should be conducted in public places.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

God is the creator of the marriage bond.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no such thing in Gods sight as same sex marriage. In is an abomination. All who endorse such anpractice risks judgement from God at the end of their lives.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation often results in pregnancies which create problems for society. It should not be encouraged.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And with a church related celebrant.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This makes a joke of the whole institution.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be set to cover travel costs only, based on mileage.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Travel costs only.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Travel costs only.

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Travel costs only

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCR-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 14:18:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. This risks undermining the solemnity and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not simply be allowed because the marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity and safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity and safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCF-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 16:16:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches do not have their own authorised person to register weddings and therefore need the support of a civil registrar familiar with the necessary legalities. This might be for good reason such as that the church holds weddings infrequently, or the church is small in numbers, or the church does not have a minister. A separate civil ceremony would then be needed in these circumstances.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Popular cultural ideas portrayed in the media and even reflected in today's highly secular UK government fluctuate and change over time and might seek to penalise the teaching of the World's religions that are much more stable and do not tend to change over time. The assessment in question of "contrary to public policy or morality" is just too subjective, uncertain and unpredictable. It would risk those with less popular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants. The focus ought to be on illegal activity such as those of terrorists who advocate the violent overthrow of democracy.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently wedding officials are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to hold a strongly-held view of marriage. An independent person appointed whereby there is lack of clarity on what safeguards or training would be in place prior to appointing an independent, to carry the responsibility needed. Having an independent conducting a pseudo-religious ceremony could misrepresent the religious group's position or perhaps there might be beliefs from more than one religion brought to a single ceremony, distorting the practice and principles being represented by the faiths involved. An independent opens up a market for wedding vows to be a commercial concern and would open doors to a low, degrading view of marriage, and a weakened one at that.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per The Marriage Act of 1949, the prescribed words essentially form a foundation for the declaration needed - without them a marriage is not founded on solemn and sober promises. A legally recognised marriage with no words let alone no promises markedly reduces the commitment needed and the ceremony becomes overtly casual. The rules are already very flexible on the rest of the ceremony. It is very important to note and acknowledge that marriage is not and has never been an entirely private affair, marriage and divorce impact widely on society as a whole. The wedding is a public declaration with accountability needed primarily to the person to whom you are marrying, however there is also an inherent accountability beyond the couple too.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness and sincerity and fidelity of the commitment needed for marriage is much more important than going to huge lengths to personalise / customise every detail to the couple's preferences, as this encourages commercialisation and a sense of 'buying an event'.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is important to society as a whole. an open doors access offers protection against forced marriage and bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:



No

Please expand on your answer:

The Law Commission seem to offer therefore a very broad interpretation, open wide, as to places that they would regard as "dignified" and "safe". Surely that cannot be the case for everywhere and anywhere.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCD-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 16:20:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

soka gakkai international - united kingdom

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

not necessary to be confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not relevant

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not relevant

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

not relevant

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

we have not been conducting any weddings at all

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

yes as this would enable couples living in different parts of the country register for their marriage in a more simple way

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes again this would make the process more streamlined for couples living in different parts of the world.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

no only when the originally named officiant is unable to perform their duty because of death, illness or unavoidable delay.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

no relevant as we are not a christian organisation

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not relevant as we are not a christian organisation

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

not relevant as we are not a christian organisation

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

not relevant as we are not a christian organisation

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

not relevant as we are not a christian organisation

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

not relevant as we are not a christian organisation

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not relevant to our organisation as we are not christian

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

yes this would help make things clear and help to answer any questions we may be asked

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes - we agree that the law should expressly exclude religious organisations and non-religious belief organisations from nominating officials if the organisation promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

yes this is logical

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

based on discussion with the couple and the celebrant whatever is agreed in terms of religious readings as part of the ceremony

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

we feel that the law should not limit the place for a wedding ceremony to be held

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The general registry office should be responsible & a list should be available to all celebrants

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no comment

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no comment

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

no concerns

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

no comment

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

these costs seem reasonable

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

this system should simplify the preparations a couple need to undertake before their wedding ceremony which is good

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

this new system would make it much simpler for couples to have a wedding in a venue of their own choice rather than having to choose from a limited number of venues

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

this new system would make it much simpler for couples to have a wedding that matches them as a couple

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

currently there are quite a few barriers a couple must overcome to be able to get married at the moment so this new system would remove all those barriers

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

currently there are quite a few barriers a couple must overcome to be able to get married at the moment so this new system would remove all those barriers

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

no comment

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCC-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 16:54:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is extremely helpful for Civil Registrars to register weddings at churches, which do not have an authorised person, due to the fact that some churches may not have a wedding very often, or could be small and not familiar with the legal requirement. In order for a wedding ceremony to be recognised in law, it is vital for a Civil Registrar to be present, otherwise it could lead to a couple needing a civil ceremony also.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The term 'contrary to public policy or morality,' is extremely wide in its potential interpretation. A group could be eliminated from nominating an Officiant, because it may hold unpopular, yet totally legal views. The criteria should be more specific, i.e. barring those who are specifically undermining the law through illegal activities.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At the present time, wedding Officiants are either professional registrars or those of religious association, who take a serious view of their function. Ceremonies, which are not currently legally binding, undertaken by Officiants, tend to be of a lighter nature sometimes bordering on the bizarre. If independent Officiants were allowed to take legally binding ceremonies, it would no doubt erode the serious nature and dignity of the occasion. Introducing Independent Officiants, could also open up a commercial market, in which Officiants who are prepared to cater for the bizarre and extreme, would demand the highest fees. Currently, conducting wedding ceremonies, does not pander to the financially greedy. Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that in 2018, the Government gave the Law Commission a mandate to move towards the reduction in costs of wedding venues.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an extremely serious undertaking, the full impact of which , is only realised upon entering married life. Therefore, it is vital to maintain prescribed words, in order to emphasise the seriousness of this life changing occasion. Marriage is far more than a simple route to obtain a marriage certificate. A couple are quite free to choose whatever other elements they wish to include.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In view of the fact that the Law Commission holds to the conviction that Officiants should have a duty to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage ,this proposal could seriously undermine this objective. The proposal should remain in the realm of non legally binding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:



It is vital that an Open Doors policy be maintained. This provides a safeguard against forced marriage and bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is far too broad in its scope. There is a distinct danger of venues being chosen, which detract from the dignity and the sense of solemnity of the occasion. It could reduce the ceremony to just another event.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCS-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 17:06:21

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What is your name?

Name:

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Personal response

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should be public

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is very important

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The importance of marriage must be stressed

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil registrars are necessary at some churches who do not have their own

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Not a good idea

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a very important ceremony so to allow just anyone to officiate takes away the importance of the ceremony

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep marriage special

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not just having a piece of paper to say so. There must be set words for both parties to make a commitment to one another

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding ceremony is making a serious commitment to one another. A part of the wording should be set.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Although marriage is a commitment between the two people it is also a public affair so anyone should be able to witness the ceremony.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not quite sure how to answer - but I stress that marriage is important so there must be safeguards.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Public must be allowed to attend any wedding.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes, if public can be present

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

if public can be present

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCY-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 17:08:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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If other, please state::

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The church should have jurisdiction over its own ceremonies

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both persons should attend together to make that declaration

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a matter for the Church. Society has a choice as to whether or not to use Church services. Any organisation should have the right to conduct itself unless its activities are against the law

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If this were the case, then who would officiate if a couple wanted a church wedding?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that this is the current state

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that officiants be adequately trained. This proposal would make extra checks necessary and be contrary to what I believe this consultation is trying to achieve

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the nominee has the relevant training and qualifications

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If enabled, how would these independent officiants be regulated?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Contrary to question 32

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to officiants continuing to meet the standards laid out in their training and qualifications.set by an independent body



Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to them being fit for office

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This leaves the option for some to undermine the seriousness of marriage. Commitment should be more important than customising their service

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This should be regulated by the specific religious authority involved. EG the ceremony should not conflict with any belief involved

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access should be maintained. Private ceremonies would not be conducive to preventing arranged or forced marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness and sanctity of marriage should be upheld. if passed, venues which do not respect this would be allowed.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

### Consultation Question 50:

No

Not Answered

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should not require legislation

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The intention of this proposal is to bring more flexibility into marriage. Surely this is in contradiction to those proposals

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe that identities are relevant

### Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think this needs legislation. The couples themselves should have the choice.

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

item 2 Witnesses could be a deterrent to forced marriages. See previous comment on no public access

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am concerned that any changes to the law will preserve the commitment of couples marrying and its seriousness and importance, I trust that there will not be over regulation and that common sense and respect for differing views will be upheld.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCX-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 17:14:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should be able to take place remotely in future.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

i am training to be a celebrant and this is something that I feel is very necessary and couples want.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible in all these places - with guidelines

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants will be best to do this.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Marriage law seems confusing, long winded and difficult at the moment.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCM-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 18:05:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Coalition for Marriage

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married to my wife over 45 years ago in a religious service and believe in sanctity and formality of marriage. It should be taken very seriously and in public to show that making a real commitment and not taken lightly.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Longer period would hopefully reduce number of forced marriages

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this but believe that the officiant should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

Need to keep public declarations that are considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying seriousness of commitment being made.

There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways. It is not much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to lifetime commitment they are entering into.

A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn event. The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations. This was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriages. This is still a problem in our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony means that should be appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. Would weddings be allowed in such places as MacDonalds?

Please share your views below:

See above.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for 'dignity ' and 'safety'. Terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFC2-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 18:36:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious matter and proper registration is essential, for the couple and for their children

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the requirement to attend a person to person is a requirement

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Absolute minimum 7 days, but 28 days would be preferable.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No - remote interviews are meaningless and open to abuse

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the either of the couple are at risk of harm, then the relevant authorities should be alerted.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What schedule ?- don't understand the question

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Schedule again?

Notice should identify the officiant to ensure he/she is officially authorised as otherwise the marriage could be challenged as illegal

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the substitute is officially authorised

Please share your views below:

Question too vague. What other circumstances are envisaged?

Consultation Question 13:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Publication of banns in home areas of both parties and in the location of the proposed wedding provides some protection to the parties allowing challenge as the eligibility of either party to marry.

This also appears to be a direct attack on the Anglican church.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

May not currently be very significant, except that church buildings have been known to be damaged or destroyed by "terrorist" or other attack, even in peacetime, and fire or storm damage can occur at any time. Widen the scope but do not repeal.

This also appears to be a direct attack on the Anglican church.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. Banns should also be read in the location(s) of both parties.

This also appears to be a direct attack on the Anglican church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both points. At least the Anglican Church takes a wedding as the start of a lifelong commitment to a marriage seriously. This quango and the government should not meddle in the affairs of the Anglican or any other church.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, and this should also apply prior to ANY wedding anywhere.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Leave the churches alone. Also all weddings in any other venues should be preceded by civil preliminaries stressing the meaning and importance of commitment of the parties to a life-long union.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In some churches, the officiant may not be authorised to register the marriage and an registrar or authorised person should be present to ensure that the legal framework of questions and answers and words of commitment are followed.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to be the same as the current arrangement of "authorised person" in some non-conformist churches, for example. But nomination should be examined and approved before authorisation.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes - if an organisation promotes purposes that are unlawful etc etc it should be prohibited anyway

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Res, but subject to proper scrutiny and authorisation, not just by nomination.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In addition, nominations should be scrutinised thoroughly by the GRO before official authorisation

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too wide open to abuse

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But nomination is not sufficient on its own. Nominations should be scrutinised and authorised or rejected by the GRO as set out in my responses above

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If not, system would be open to abuse

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A system of independent officiants is open wide to abuse anyway unless properly regulated. It becomes just a business. The government must ensure proper registration and regulation. There should be a standard and maximum charge specified by law, to avoid abuse of the system

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If authorised, "independent" should mean independent, and it should be properly regulated as any other business would be.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And also stress the commitment to a lifelong union. What constitutes both dignity and solemnity needs clear definition - otherwise individuals are open to define the words to suit their own purposes.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That is clearly open to widespread abuse. Those nominating individuals should be responsible for drawing those who fail to the authorising body, the GRO. Whether or not attention to failure comes from the nominating body, Proper regulation should be the responsibility of the GRO. Ultimately, the GRO should have power to remove individuals from the list of authorised persons.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q 37.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q 37.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Authorisation should be time limited and re-application should be required at regular intervals to ensure the list kept up to date.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be typical of any well regulated organisation.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 They should be required to express that there is no impediment to their marrying each other in public in case there may be some challenge not discovered during "the preliminaries" .

2 " Religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations MUST submit details of their wedding ceremonies to the General Register Office, to identify the way(s) each party expresses consent in accordance with their beliefs"; - to ensure that these comply with UK law. And they MUST be followed in every case

3 "...the signing of which would itself be an expression of consent if the ceremony did not contain an expression of consent" Do not agree - the ceremony MUST include a public expression of consent.

4 See response to 3 above

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony MUST include the legally binding form of words in respect of impediment and consent. This proposal could result in the introduction of frivolous items into what should be a serious and legal commitment to marriage. Anything else can be an add-on or left to "the party" afterwards

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access should continue to be allowed - doors could be closed, but not locked.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Question 35 states : We provisionally propose that officiants should have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

"Anywhere" will not necessarily comply with that fine proposal.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors would be a possibility, provided the venue has been properly registered and authorised. It will not be possible to comply with registration of the other proposals, and they will not meet the criteria of free public access which is important. Some of those proposals would open the way to stunts, shows and secret ceremonies in public homes. which would certainly not comply with the stated object in Q 35 " We provisionally propose that officiants should have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage."

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access should be maintained to allow for challenge which has not been discovered during "the preliminaries"

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

If these possibilities were to become law, it would no doubt give rise to churches or other religious organisations having to open their doors to ceremonies contrary to their faith basis. For example same-sex weddings which are contrary to the beliefs of Christians who base their belief on the Bible.

Civil weddings should not be confused with religious weddings.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Q 35 : We provisionally propose that officiants should have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage. Approval of wedding venues should go through an approval and registration process to ensure that they are suitable to meet these criteria. Opening selection of venue to decision of the officiant except from a list of registered venues must be avoided.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, but should also include registered and approved.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes agree, but the GRO should also register venues as suitable and acceptable.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Approval and registration by the GRO to ensure compliance with standards meeting the dignity and solemnity criteria. No free for all at the whim of officiants who may be in the business of making money out of a civic duty.

Please share your views below:

GRO - see many of my other answers on the subject.

Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This the current standard practice for current Marriage Certificates.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The current paper marriage certificate and copies to the registrar should be retained for the foreseeable future. Government IT programmes are not noted for either efficiency, security or robust operation.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't know what the current law says, but terminal illness, hospitalisation and housebound cases clearly need special and compassionate consideration. I don't believe that special circumstances should extend to those who are detained in prison.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Parties who are detailed in prison should be excluded from the list.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 I agree that special arrangements may be necessary in a national emergency, but this needs proper definition and should form part of the primary legislation.

2, 3 and 4 I don't agree. It is important that face to face meetings to determine eligibility to marry. Remote ceremonies will not allow for public access, and the possibility of challenge of eligibility. Signatures on separate bits of paper should not be necessary.

2, 3 and 4 throw the whole concept of dignity and solemnity out of the window as well as being an open invitation to abuse.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Define "national emergency". Some (eg Covid 19) may affect all weddings because of travel restrictions. Others (eg war or terrorist activity) will maybe disrupt plans but not prevent a wedding taking place.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The statement is too vague. During a war, for example, both combatants and civilians could be said to be "at risk of death". Clearer definition is required of what is intended. Evidence that a person is seriously ill and unlikely to recover is a clear statement of fact.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These could only be pandering to the extreme tastes of a relatively few individuals, and the preservation of the dignity and solemnity of a wedding at the start of a lifelong commitment to marriage could be entirely absent. See all my comments about registration of venues in response to earlier questions.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

These proposals are just pandering to the taste of a few without any justification. All of them are becoming far from the principle of dignity and solemnity. They are not worthy of a serious government agency who seem intent on further destruction of what marriage is all about

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These proposals are just pandering to the taste of a few without any justification. All of them are becoming far from the principle of dignity and solemnity. They are not worthy of a serious government agency who seem intent on further destruction of what a wedding ceremony at the start of a life-long commitment is all about.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These proposals are just pandering to the taste of a few without any justification. All of them are becoming far from the principle of dignity and solemnity. They are not worthy of a serious government agency who seem intent on further destruction of what a wedding ceremony at the start of a life-long commitment is all about.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Delete "member of crew who is an independent officiant".

There may be a very few circumstances where weddings at sea may be acceptable, desirable and necessary. The inclusion of a "resident independent officiant" crew member" would only be necessary if the ship were to become a floating wedding location.

These proposals are just pandering to the taste of a few without any justification. All of them are becoming far from the principle of dignity and solemnity. They are not worthy of a serious government agency who seem intent on further destruction of what a wedding ceremony at the start of a life-long commitment is all about.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There may be demand by a few individuals, but demand does not equal need. No special provisions of this kind should be written into UK law.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No special provisions of this kind should be written into UK law. What a waste of parliamentary time and the cost of the time of expenses lawyers drafting changes to the system.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be standard fixed fee countrywide to avoid a price war by local authorities wanting to attract business, or alternatively overcharging to boost their income.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a national fixed fee.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consideration should be given to a lower concessionary fee if particular circumstances apply.

Consultation Question 83:



(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't actually understand the question.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe that it is the current law which has led to the reduction in legal marriages. Successive Governments have undermined the state of marriage as between one man and one woman by introducing civil partnerships, same sex marriage, and making divorce easier. Co-habitation has become the norm, with promiscuity growing before marriage and after marriage and between marriages. The whole situation is blurred by the way the Equalities Act is applied, and by the encouragement of LGBTQ +++ issues. The idea that a biological man and a biological woman should remain celibate until they are married, and then stay married for 40, 50 60 or more years is seen as archaic. This attitude to marriage has give rise to the huge growth in single parent families, often totally reliant on state "benefit" and complaining about poverty, where frequently the children are ignored, abused, and left to turn to crime. Selfish "me first" attitudes abound.

Successive governments have boasted about support for families, but have done nothing to look at the causes of family breakdown.

Children who are part of stable families with a mother and father generally do better at school and in later life. And such children are likely to be more supportive of elderly parents.

Prominent individuals - wealthy business people, so called celebrities, MPs, Government ministers to name but a few - all set bad examples of what stable married family life should be about.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The soaring cost of "the wedding" is not primarily the fees and costs, legal or otherwise, but the huge costs of planning the day, clothes for the day, huge guest lists and wanting to keep up with the Jones's or do even better. The costs of venues (whether for the whole ceremony plus reception, or just reception after a church or registry wedding) deters many. How much easier just to live together and then after a few months or years decide to split up and try someone else. No commitment. Often children are really hurt in such fleeting relationships.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't believe these proposals will have any benefit at all in developing more stable marriages. They are all peripheral tinkering with existing law.

Successive Governments have already gone a long way to destroying the concept of stable traditional marriage between a man and a woman, a life-long commitment, freely entered into, with the intention of raising a family, and excluding all other similar but inferior relationships.

The benefits of a stable marriage should be obvious, but are often sidelined as being old fashioned. Going for a simple wedding and committing to each other "for better or worse, richer poorer, in sickness and in health, till parted by death" reaps its rewards. Part of this relationship is working hard, sorting out differences, raising families. This lacks the glamour portrayed in media, TV, film, and sport for example, but is what so many couples of the older generations have done.

Shame on individuals, parliaments and governments for their past failures, and for ignoring objections of the millions of the population who have objected and been dismayed at the destruction to family life which has been caused.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFU7-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 18:59:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

My comments are purely my own and do not reflect my family or children's responses in any intended way.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This idea poses a danger of some churches falling foul of weddings law, as they are required to take responsibility for unfamiliar legalities in order to hold a religious ceremony

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The term “contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants. The test should focus on objective criteria such as terrorism or that which undermines the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to maintain the status quo where wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage.

Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

A recent study found that most independent celebrants would give couples very little restriction in what they could include in their ceremony – even where the content “clashed with their personal religion, beliefs or values”. This sets the bar extremely low for the seriousness of the wedding, and it is unclear what safeguards or training would be in place.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind. The current prescribed words form a strong foundation for marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Society has been founded on serious and faithful relationships. It is, therefore, far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy and makes it clear that weddings are a public not a private affair.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow groups such as churches to conduct wedding ceremonies at their usual venues. The concern is that it is unclear what safeguards will be in place to prevent unsuitable venues being used.

Please share your views below:

It is unclear how 'dignified' and 'safe' will be measured. It needs to be clear that venues which reinforce the seriousness of the commitment to marriage are tested.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFJE-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 19:28:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private person

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We were married in a religious ceremony in church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



none

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6X-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 20:19:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Would you kindly treat our personal data as strictly confidential. The reason for our request for confidentiality is that many people like ourselves have reservations about the politicisation of sexuality and the shifting of our social handholds. We are very concerned that some of those who wish to cement 'gay' ( and 'transgender') into our social structures have aggressively targeted those who express contrary opinions. For example, the highly respected author and journalist, [REDACTED], was given a mock award as [REDACTED]. More recently [REDACTED] has received death threats after expressing her sincerely held views. We are especially concerned to keep our names and address and personal data confidential, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews potentially allow impersonation or coercion, therefore interviews should be required to take place in person.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Only in such exceptional circumstances as given above.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It is a safeguard if banns are read in the parishes of each of the parties to the marriage.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Both proposals would be helpful in preventing any potential coercion and that each person has a proper understanding of the seriousness of the commitment of marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

We agree with the proposal which would help to ensure that both parties fully appreciate the seriousness of the proposed marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches do not currently have their own authorised person to conduct weddings, perhaps because they do not hold many weddings or for other reasons of impracticality .

In such circumstances the churches rely upon civil registrars to register weddings. If this becomes no longer possible, the parties to the wedding are likely to need a civil ceremony which is separate to their church wedding. Alternatively, in order to hold a religious ceremony such churches may struggle and fail to attain the required familiarity with the legal requirements, inadvertently putting themselves in breach of the law.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The phrase 'contrary to public policy or morality' would potentially penalise those whose views are traditional or more conservative than the prevailing popular culture. For example, millions of people continue to hold to the view that the biblical definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman with the intention of a life-long commitment, a view which has been universally held for millennia. Organisations which represent such views should not be excluded merely because they do not conform to the popular culture of the day, which may be aggressively promoted by sexual minority pressure groups, the media or celebrities.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants tend to have a strong belief in the importance of marriage in our society, and are trained to preserve and protect the dignity and solemnity of marriage, striving to ensure that the parties fully appreciate the duties and responsibilities of entering into a commitment which is the bedrock of a healthy society.

Independent officiants can currently conduct weddings which are not legally binding, and have been known to result in ceremonies which are bizarre and likely to bring the institution of marriage into disrepute, for example in a sadomasochism dungeon.

Independent officiants could purport to conduct a 'religious' ceremony which in fact seriously misrepresents the religious body's belief, say on same-sex marriage.

Independent officiants would naturally be more inclined towards the commercial aspects of their business and push the boundaries of what is acceptable, resulting in bizarre ceremonies which undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage to the detriment of the whole of society.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be clear guidance to officiants to ensure that the officiants understand that they are under a solemn duty to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage. The meaning of 'dignity' and 'solemnity' should be clearly explained in such a way that officiants understand the boundaries of what is acceptable in order to avoid the dignity and solemnity being undermined.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential that the parties orally and in person articulate their consent to marry each other in order to maintain the dignity and solemnity of the occasion and for them to internalise the seriousness of the commitment which they are making to each other. Any removal of the physical face to face expression of commitment would

- i) seriously undermine the importance and solemnity of the commitment being entered into
- ii) detract from the essential public declaration which is intrinsic to the marriage ceremony
- iii) detract from the expectation that the marriage would be respected and honoured by society as a whole, instead of being reduced to a private arrangement between the parties.

Officiants should be provided with a prescribed form of wording which is clear and unambiguous and which conveys the momentous nature of the commitment which each party is entering into.

It is wholly inadequate for the marriage to be solemnised merely on the basis of a written consent.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The provisional proposal would provide far too much scope for the form and ceremony to be de-solemnised to such an extent as to undermine the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. It is essential that the form and ceremony clearly promote the seriousness of the commitment entered into by the parties,

- i) which is in their interests;
- ii) in the interests of the whole of society which has an interest in the stability of marriage which is the bedrock of a healthy society;
- iii) which protects the officiant from being pressured into agreeing to an unsuitable form and ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential that the existing requirements for a wedding to take place with open doors, or otherwise for public access to be allowed, should be retained in order that it reinforces the understanding that:

- i) marriage is in the interests of the whole of society which benefits from the continuing stability of marriage which is the bedrock of a healthy society;
- ii) the parties to the marriage not only freely consent to the marriage, but can be seen to freely consent to the marriage which protects the vulnerable from coercion.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The advantages of providing that all weddings should take place in venues which meet prescribed conditions greatly outweigh the potential disadvantages of allowing a free for all.

The advantages that all weddings should take place in venues which meet prescribed conditions are as follows:

- i) there is greater certainty that venues will meet the criteria of suitably reflecting the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony;
- ii) the 'open doors' principle that the wedding should be accessible to the public can be more easily observed which satisfies the interest of society in ensuring that weddings are properly conducted;
- iii) the officiant is protected from undue pressure to officiate at a ceremony at an unsuitable venue, which does not adequately recognise the significance of the occasion and may not meet the health and safety requirements for all in attendance.

The potential disadvantages of allowing a free choice of venue are as follows:-

- i) the venue may seriously undermine the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony
- ii) the venue may be inaccessible to the public who have legitimate interest in ensuring that weddings are properly conducted;
- iii) instances of coercion and bigamy are more likely to be undetected;
- iv) the officiant is not protected from undue pressure to officiate at a ceremony at an unsuitable venue which may not meet the health and safety requirements for all in attendance.

Please share your views below:



Weddings on inland waters such as lakes or rivers, in the air, and/or in private homes are highly unlikely to satisfy the following criteria:-

- i) maintaining the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony which is commensurate with the seriousness of the commitment which the parties enter into;
- ii) ensuring the 'open doors' principle that the wedding should be accessible to the public;
- iii) ensuring that the venue meets appropriate health and safety requirements for members of the public who may wish to attend;
- iv) providing sufficient protection to the officiant from undue pressure to conduct the ceremony in an unsuitable location.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This provisional proposal gives insufficient weight to the need to preserve:

- i) the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony, being commensurate with the seriousness of the commitment being entered into;
- ii) the public's legitimate interest in ensuring that weddings are properly conducted;
- iii) a measure of deterrence against instances of improper behaviour including coercion and bigamy.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Churches must be able to insist that only Christian religious ceremonies take place in their buildings according to Canon Law. In addition the civil law should be clear and robust in protecting the Churches from legal action based on claims of discrimination for refusing a non-religious ceremony in the building.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This provisional proposal potentially fails to provide sufficient protection to the officiant from undue pressure to conduct the ceremony in a wholly unsuitable location.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear how officiants would be able to assess whether a location meets the criteria of 'safe and dignified' taking into account the following:

- i) these terms are not defined and would require strict safeguards;
- ii) the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony which is commensurate with the seriousness of the commitment which the parties enter into would need to be upheld;
- iii) the 'open doors' principle that the wedding should be accessible to the public should be upheld;
- iv) the venue must meet appropriate health and safety and accessibility requirements for members of the public who may wish to attend;
- iv) it is hard to see how the officiant can be sufficiently protected from undue pressure to conduct the ceremony in an unsuitable location.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whatever guidance is produced to officiants will only be guidance and will inevitably result in officiants being pressured to push to boundaries as to what is acceptable or presenting an opportunity to officiants themselves to push the boundaries so as to create more business for themselves at the expense of preserving the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony which is commensurate with the seriousness of the commitment which the parties enter into.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF78-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 20:33:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

More convenient in some cases

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that for your reason given about sham/forced marriages or the capacity of a person to consent should be in force for all applicants

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree for convenience sake

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can't see the reason and there may be the risk of disruption by hostile persons at the ceremony

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think 6 months would be better

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course, or the wedding may not go ahead as planned

Please share your views below:

No, the reasons given are adequate

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This would make sense

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes, they should have that power so that if they are unsure of a person's legal status, that can be verified
2. Not necessary to meet separately unless they suspect a forced marriage in which case they could always request that

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I see no reason to deny the church this status

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legally correct

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree with this as I understand some churches rely on lay people who are registered to officiate where they have no resident clergy

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

it goes with the office

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No point, if the organisations have to comply with the last question

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

"contrary to public policy or morality" is too fluid and subject to constant change in our changing world. Unlawful, ie views that threaten democracy/terrorist actions should be included

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think it should be by office only

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Must be registered surely or anyone at all would qualify, thus downgrading the solemnity of the proceedings

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously...noone wants unfit or improper persons officiating and this should be ensured

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is very important and will dissuade anyone from turning their role into a profit-making career, thus downgrading the dignity of the event and the importance of their role

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They must be one or the other

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If marriage is to be held in respect, they should certainly be held accountable for the dignity of the proceedings

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on the guidance ! As regards legality and ensuring the dignity of the occasion, yes

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, primary responsibility but I assume there would be a facility to deregister people if someone else complained and it could be proved that they were not a proper person

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would ensure that people were still "up to the job"

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned that it's possible that no promises may be made and that the definition of marriage itself may be destroyed. I think there should be a formal declaration by the officiating person that the couple are now married and at that point, the marriage is formed

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If there is no recognised form at all, the whole thing is too fluid and loses its meaning. Marriage should be regulated in some way or why bother....just have a "get-together" ?

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the categories you list should be the only ones to hold their own services, not open them up to other people

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many people cherish their religious views without necessarily wanting to be married in a place of worship..it would be important and meaningful to them to have some religious content

Please share your views below:

I don't feel that it is necessary to specify what may be allowed. I assume the registrar would "ok" any content for suitability

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They may be a number of reasons for people to choose a civil ceremony but people of faith would be distressed if the provision to consolidate their vows in a religious service were to be taken away

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps this would make forced marriage easier

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The rules should be the same for all as long as there is not a long delay in accomplishing this as time may be short for the terminally ill.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can't see the point

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think 3 & 4 should be carried out remotely. I feel it essential that both parties be present or there will be a whole industry of online marriages taking place which will further downgrade the ceremony

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

only fair

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why not the name of the officiant if others have to give this information?

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it should always be the captain of the vessel to ensure the dignity & importance of the proceedings

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Yes , there must be, just the same as anywhere else

Consultation Question 74:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think the housebound should be penalised

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

If you must impose an additional fee, this is fairer

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think more couples would marry if your proposals are allowed, however, the easier it is to marry, the less thought may go into deciding to marry, resulting in a more casual view of marriage at a time when marriage is being sidelined in favour of co-habiting

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUE-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-23 21:54:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Regulation needed to deter hastily arranged or sham marriages

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In the case of remotely conducted interviews, an inter-person interview should be required.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes. 2. Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be retained

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Standardisation is a good thing

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Unlawful organisations or those acting contrary to public morality should not be able to nominate. Officiants.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be supported by and nominated by a recognised, body, not independently

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony ought to contain an audible declaration of consent, and that such son sent is binding for life.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The form of the ceremony should be chosen by the officiating body, not the parties

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Outdoors acceptable, but the open doors provision would be compromised in the case of the other venues

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be the subject of further consultation

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUW-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 09:38:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

To me, "contrary to public policy or morality" seems a somewhat subjective term. Because of that it is possible that people with views that are not currently trendy (though legal) could conceivably be prevented from nominating officiants. So, the test should instead concentrate on objective criteria. Such criteria could refer to opposing terrorism or the violent overthrow of democracy.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Under the present system, wedding officiants are either professional registrars or religious representatives who will have strongly-held views on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such an appropriately high value on marriage, risking that the wedding could end up being trivialised.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be peculiar if it is possible for a person to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony! Simply signing the marriage schedule has to be inadequate. Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations that for many years have been considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. Such an approach risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because the form of the ceremony is appropriate for such a serious and solemn event. A wedding is a public declaration in which both society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The “open doors” requirement may to some people seem a bit archaic, but in reality the requirement helps to convey the public nature of wedding declarations. Removing this requirement encourages an unhelpful perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed? Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUT-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 11:12:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Advance notice prevents illegal marriages as it make sthe public aware

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

A practical solution

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



This would help to prevent illegal marriages

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a sound check against illegal and sham marriages

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many small churches do not have the resources not just to register the marriages but to keep the Registers and submit returns, This would preclude them having weddings.

I see no reason to justify this change

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It ensures accountability and that those officiants are aware of their responsibilities

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious affair and not to be taken lightly. This would prevent it being demeaned by organisations promoting other views

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This raises the question as to who decides what is unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality. It could lead to those holding minority views being sidelined. It is censorship. Those organisations which promote hatred, terrorism and undermine society should be excluded but this should be handled separately from this review.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This assumes that such organisations will act responsibly > i question that

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle a sound idea. However in practice it depends upon the criteria for authorisation and what the requirements are when conducting weddings. This could open the way to all sorts of strange ceremonies which would lead to marriage being devalued. It would introduce a financial incentive to conduct marriages which could lead officials to doing anything and every thing just for the sake of their fee. This proposal would need to be accompanied by checks and balances

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This assumes that such organisations are themselves fit and proper. It begs the question as to who decides what fit and proper means.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A sound proposal, Would it actually be enforced

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who would decide when there are conflicts of interest and how would they be dealt with. This has the making of a toothless prohibition.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely essential

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I support the idea in principle but it is important that both religious and non religious organisations are involved in the production of this guidance

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This assumes that such organisations are themselves fir and proper and act responsibiy. Who would check that.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Fine if they are given the resources to do it.

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is somewhat vague, If both parties are required to say the current prescribed words, I would be content.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is far too vague and open to abuse. It runs contrary to the requirement to the duty to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marraige. It is superfluous

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public declaration by the couple.

To allow this to be done behind closed doors opens up the way for abuse.

It could mean that someone with a genuine reason to object was prevented from doing so.

There seems to reason whatsoever todo this.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst there is scope for widening the current requirements there need to be checks and balances. In particular it would depend upon how "dignified and safe" is defined.

At the moment it is too open ended.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Locations should be publicly accessible on the day of the wedding> Weddings are a public declaration of intent. To allow weddings to take place behing closed doors opens up the way to abuse of any requirements and makes enforecement impossible. I see no reason for this

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUG-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 11:22:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The consultation is quite right to try to provide 'ceremonies that are meaningful to the couple', but this proposal would exclude many churches from being able to provide wedding ceremonies if they don't have a minister or don't feel confident in fulfilling the complexities of marriage law.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The proposal is clearly well-intentioned, but is too vague. 'Contrary to public policy or morality' risks excluding those whose views are unpopular but legal (e.g., traditional Christian sexual ethics). Why not make the tests more objective? - i.e, any organisation that promotes illegal activity (e.g. terrorism or underage weddings), or advocates the violence against the state or rejects the rule of law)?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm very nervous at the thought of people taking weddings who are not well trained registrars or religious representatives - it would commercialise and trivialise weddings as the celebrants would have every financial incentive to agree to any suggestions, however silly, irreverent or inappropriate (celebrants have previously taken ceremonies in a sadomasochism dungeon and at a ruined leper hospital at halloween). That would drive up the costs of weddings, as well as reduce the seriousness and weightiness of marriage vows. What training and safeguarding protocols would be put in place to make sure that the law was being upheld, along with the seriousness of the marriage vows?

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's very hard to see what marriage is if it doesn't include weighty promises between the two people getting married. It cannot be right to have a wedding (as these proposals would allow) where the couple don't say anything to each other, let alone make any promises. The prescribed words are a currently a small part of the service with enormous flexibility around them - taking them out would send a message that this a casual and merely personal matter and that marriage is just a government-issued scrap of paper.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I appreciate the concern to 'personalise' weddings, but that concern must not trump the priority of the commitment the couple are making to each other. (That commitment is of enormous value to them and to society, and to reduce it to a merely personal bit of fun sends a very worrying signal). The officiants may be required to uphold the 'dignity and solemnity of marriage', but I'm fairly confident there'll be someone who'll be willing to go along with the most ridiculous suggestions (especially if it's well paid).  
It's also worth noting the scope here for blending elements from different faith traditions in ways that would highly offensive to people of those faiths. (Can you imagine the uproar at a nudist wedding that included syncretistic Muslim and Hindu prayers?)

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is another well-intentioned, but really dangerous proposal. There is a reason why wedding receptions are traditionally by invitation, but weddings themselves must be 'open doors'. It sends an important message that marriage is not a merely personal agreement, but has huge social implications, and, even, more importantly, is an important safeguarding requirement to protect against forced marriage and bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see the possible advantages of loosening the laws here, but the dangers are far greater. Who will decide what counts as a 'dignified and safe' location? Is it the celebrant, who is being paid to go along with it? The Law Commission proposes 'weddings in the air' would be fine - that sounds to me like a very loose interpretation of both 'safe' and 'dignified'. Reports of unofficial weddings with couples dressed as hedgehogs make me fear that marriage will be trivialised very damagingly by these proposals.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFU1-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 12:11:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would interfere with our church's ability to hold weddings (Baptist church), as we don't have an authorised person for registering them. Even if we did, we are a small church with infrequent weddings so would quite likely break the law inadvertently.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I'm worried about the criteria for exclusions: they should be more specific such as undermining the rule of law or supporting illegal activity. We shouldn't exclude people with legal but unpopular views.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants would not restrict what could be included in a ceremony, and does not indicate any training or monitoring of their behaviour. They would likely do it for profit, creating a new market. If the couple choose a religious ceremony, they shouldn't be able to assume they can ignore the religion's beliefs or standards of behaviour.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not an entirely private matter, so wedding ceremonies should have legally required words. The few prescribed words currently are what makes the wedding genuine and not just casual. Your proposal would allow weddings with no promises, amounting to just a certificate from the government.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If couples try to combine elements from ceremonies of different faiths, they could easily cause offence and make the wedding a parody. Opening it up to commercial competition will reward low standards and undermine the dignity of wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open ceremonies help prevent illegal activity such as forced marriage and bigamy. Marriage is important to everyone in society, and is not just a private matter.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What does it mean that venues are 'dignified and safe'? They need to be places fit for a solemn occasion, and it's fine if churches want to hold proper ceremonies in shared buildings they don't have registered. But I'm worried there is no clarity about safeguards to prevent unsuitable venues being used.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFCT-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 14:21:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some link, though. Perhaps a longer timescale.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should always be face-to-face if possible, because the interviewer can then judge the applicants more accurately. For example, body language, posture, interaction with each other, tone of voice etc. are all important.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, if banns mean anything then they should be published in the applicants' usual place of residence.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this is important, because an officiating minister needs to be absolutely sure that the couple are qualified to be married.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, so that it is clear that both consent to the marriage and agree with the arrangements.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Couples applying for marriage, their friends and more likely to be present when the banns are read than when the notice is merely posted at a register office.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant's role is important, to ensure that the marriage is conducted in a proper manner.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on the status of the officiant at the place of worship. Perhaps certification needs to be given, so that officiants have adequate training and status within the denomination or religious group in which they are operating.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In general, I agree, but I am concerned that if a registration officer gets something wrong or does not carry out the necessary preliminaries the wedding party (i.e. the couple and their guests) would not know and the marriage could be invalid.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clerks in holy orders must be trained to conduct weddings. This does not always take place at theological college or during non-residential courses, but should be a requirement for a training incumbent.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Would such an organisation be a nationally or internationally recognised body? There is a danger that a group could be established for the sole purpose of enabling a small number of marriages in, for example, a commune or cult. The organisation needs to be very carefully defined.

Please share your views below:

Yes, this would be a useful safeguard. It would be clearer to define what types of organisation could offer weddings rather than proscribe those which could not.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

20 is too low a number, because it is smaller than one congregation. Potentially it could result in a vast number of groups conducting their own marriages and the whole concept of marriage becoming very much a localised and individual affair. Marriage must have a universal meaning in order to be of any lasting value.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, although this would be controversial. However, it is necessary in order to maintain the solemnity and dignity of monogamous marriage.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Only if the officiants are adequately trained and of suitable standing.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this is not done, then officiating at marriages becomes a 'free for all' and the dignity of marriage is threatened.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be a sponsoring organisation. There is a danger of some individuals assuming the role of independent marriage officiant for personal financial gain or even as a career.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely vital.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There will need to be a cap on fees. otherwise applicants would be tempted to shop around for the cheapest wedding.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The terms 'dignity' and 'solemnity' require amplification. The responsibility to ensure these extends to the applicants too. The content and tone of the ceremony are vitally important.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Thought needs to be given to the monitoring process. Would 'inspectors' visit marriage ceremonies?

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Authorisation should be time limited because people move house, change their circumstances and grow older. Other roles are time limited and this does give the opportunity for officiants to be assessed periodically. A relatively long period of authorisation would perhaps be a useful compromise.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a form of 'prescribed words' for consent, so that the couple and the public know that they are entering into a new relationship which is universally recognised and respected. The marriage document is an expression of what happens at the ceremony, not a substitute for it.

Consultation Question 43:



No

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity and dignity of marriage implies that the form of words used should be universally acceptable, not just something agreed between the couple. Marriage is a public event and status and the words used should be externally moderated. However, this does not prevent a couple from using additional words. The 'prescribed words' should be seen as a minimum.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although one wonders why a couple would want to include religious content in a civil wedding ceremony, there seems to be no reason why religious content, e.g. music, readings and prayers, should not be added to a civil wedding. If the form of words used is expanded, then it is discriminatory to exclude religious content. How can it be defined, in any case?

Please share your views below:

See above.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why? If it is proposed to make provisions broader, then it is surely up to the couple and their religious leaders to decide. Or would repeal simply tidy up the situation?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above, marriage is a public status and event, recognised and respected by society as a whole. Public access is vital, even if the provision is not used very often. Religious services are supposed to permit open access and marriage ceremonies should do the same. This does, of course, mean that it is inappropriate to hold wedding ceremonies in restricted locations, such as in the air, under the sea and in private homes.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not all venues are safe and dignified. It is not appropriate for weddings to take place in situations where witnesses and friends are excluded, e.g. in the air or in the sea. The use of some venues, e.g. theme parks and fast food restaurants, would trivialise the status of marriage.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Getting married is a public event and it should be possible for anyone to witness the occasion. This would not be possible in these situations.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The reason given in the previous answer. Marriage is not just a private affair, but a public declaration.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Are not 'non-religious belief' weddings civil ceremonies? Or is the proposal to introduce a third type of ceremony?

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a clear statement of what 'dignified' means. This needs expansion and perhaps a fuller description of what types of venue are considered to be suitable.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In considerable detail and with suitable safeguards please.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local authorities could oversee this process, through their register offices. A detailed checklist would be necessary and the General Regi

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What is the reason for including parents' names and occupations? Is this simply to obtain statistical information? Will this information be voluntary, as it is at present? Some applicants leave this section blank, especially if the parent is not known.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may take many years before some churches are equipped to participate.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with (1) and (3), but (2) is dangerous. Witnesses are required for good reason.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Alternative provisions will need to be established. otherwise there is a possibility that spurious petitions could take place, e.g. when one party wishes to end the marriage and distorts or fabricates evidence to support their case.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Yes, an 'open doors' policy would be difficult to apply in these cases. Special provisions need to be made.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be flexibility here, but the issue of consent must still apply. This requires a 'face to face' meeting. There is a danger of the non-terminally ill applicant wanting to marry for, e.g., monetary gain.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses should be present and the parties to the wedding should both be present. Otherwise it makes a nonsense of the true meaning of marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This brings marriage into disrepute and encourages 'gimmicky' weddings.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What about cruise ships registered elsewhere? Many weddings already take place on these.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. This opens up all sorts of issues relating to the suitability of the setting. Also, 'cruise ship' requires definition. Perhaps there needs to be a procedure for registering appropriate vessels.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name or office of the officiant should be given. Presumably officers of a certain rank would be eligible for registration as officiants.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There is, I think, and provision could be made for this.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The timescale should be clearly stated. e.g. a stated period after the vessel reaches an English or Welsh port. 'As soon as is reasonably possible' is too vague.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

I would support a fee waiver in a limited number of cases, perhaps to be determined locally.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Again, individual circumstances should determine the position.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think it will. The barrier is often an unwillingness to commit to marriage, rather than the cost.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In most cases cost is not an issue. Most are prepared to spend large amounts of money on other items, e.g. food, entertainment, clothes, flowers etc. The cost of the actual wedding ceremony is often not a large part of the overall expenditure.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A separate ceremony is viewed by many as an inconvenience and not always easy to fit in alongside all the other elements of the celebration.

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It happens already, e.g. weddings on tropical islands etc. I am concerned that the thresholds set are lower than those of the UK. (2) above raises the question of forced marriages and we need to do our utmost to prevent these happening. What are the reasons for wanting to get married in the UK?

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above.

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFU4-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 14:35:31

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Self Protection

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, and do not need their own authorised person.

### Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Being "contrary to public policy or morality" is too subjective an assessment.  
It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Wedding officiants are usually highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly held beliefs on marriage. Independent officiants would allow those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage, traditionally, is based on solemn promises made between two parties.

Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words need to be said between the couple, or promises made of any kind.

### Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Prescribing that weddings should be open to any member of the public, rather than those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, etc.

Marriage is not a private affair, but rather is an open declaration to society as a whole and should be honoured by all.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks details on what this means or how it will be monitored. Venues should not detract from the solemn occasion of a wedding.

Please share your views below:

As long as it is dignified and safe, also open to the public.

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFDD-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 14:35:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Lovewise

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:  
Lovewise

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:  
-

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:  
n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The reasoning for this proposal put forward in the document seems sensible. However, this is a cause for concern if there were any question of the requirement for the in-person interview being dropped at any stage in future. On occasion these small changes do initiate the erosion of a requirement altogether. It is vital for the officiant or another authorised person to meet both parties prior to the marriage, to minimise the risk of coercion.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

With the option to extend this period if concerns arise about the validity of the application.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews would have greater potential to miss certain indicators that all was not well. Many people who have now had increased experience of video-conferencing and online meetings during 2020 will attest that something is lacking in comparison to an in-person meeting, in particular the ability to "read the room" and pick up on body language. Since it would be behaviour and indicators of this kind that would initially lead to concern over issues of consent, it is wiser to retain the requirement of an in-person meeting at the outset.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

That would depend on the degree of difference between the processes within and outside England and Wales. If the procedure of giving notice were very similar, or if it were possible to follow a specific "England and Wales" notice procedure regardless of the country in which it took place, this seems reasonable. However, it wouldn't be fair for couples to undergo a vastly different process, for example, not to be required to attend an in-person interview because the country where they are giving notice does not require it.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is right to retain the public nature of marriage by continuing publicity of the notice to marry and given the increased mobility of society nowadays, online publicity seems appropriate. The online system could be used alongside the current arrangements, to be inclusive of those who do not have access to the internet.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should the substitute be named on the schedule alongside the intended officiant to make advance provision for this eventuality?

Please share your views below:

Perhaps that "death and sudden illness" should apply more broadly than just to the officiant, covering others close to them whose circumstances might affect the officiant's ability to work.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The purpose of the banns is similar to that of the notice to marry in the civil preliminaries in publicising the intended marriage. As stated in the document, publicity is valuable to the public nature of marriage and therefore it seems sensible that the banns continue to be read in other churches, especially in parishes where the couple are residing and more likely to be known.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Bringing these requirements in line with civil arrangements would be reasonable and fair.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This would seem like a sensible precaution in order to minimise the risk of coercion or forced marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Many religious venues, including small churches, rely on the presence of a registrar for the formalisation of the marriage, where they do not have an authorised person to conduct weddings themselves. If this were prevented in future the couples who wish to marry in those churches would be unable to. Since this consultation is with the aim of creating greater choice for couples, this seems counter-productive, especially if these churches and other small venues were not permitted to nominate their own officiant because of having too small a membership (cf question 25),

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is not clear whether the 20 members minimum applies to a whole organisation or to individual branches. For example, there might be a specific Christian body with many member churches throughout England and Wales, some of which have fewer than 20 regular members. Would the umbrella body, with its hundreds of members, be entitled to nominate any of its ministers (regardless of congregation size), or only those ministers whose congregations exceeded 20? If the latter, this would present a disparity with the Anglican church in which an incumbent would automatically be entitled to officiant status regardless of congregation size.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Since public policy and morality are very subjective concepts and are subject to change over time, this regulation threatens to exclude different organisations depending on the prevailing opinion of the time. In this context, organisations which have consistently held the same opinions and purposes since their inception might suddenly find themselves ineligible to nominate officiants, when they have previously done so for some time without any problem. The question of eligibility could be reduced to a conflict between a group's core beliefs and society's current popular ideas, which could lead to discrimination and remove the option for couples to marry according to their beliefs. If certain groups are to be restricted in this way, the reasons for doing so need to be very clearly defined from the outset.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Considering the discussion in the consultation document this should not be necessary, provided the authorisation procedure were relatively quick, for example to cover the departure of one church leader and the appointment of a successor without disruption to the ability of the church to provide weddings.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If this is an individual member of the public, there should be a body which assesses their suitability to be authorised and they should be required to complete appropriate training.

The training described in the consultation document focuses on ensuring officiants are able to fulfil the legal requirements, as opposed to any information on assessing venues and activities for their suitability as a context for forming a marriage, which should also be required. The concern is that this could become commercialised, and it would be important to ensure that independent officiants uphold the same high standards of dignity and solemnity that are currently expected of registrars and religious officiants.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As in question 29, the training needs to place on the officiants a requirement to be competent in assessing venues and activities for their suitability as a wedding context. It cannot solely focus on the fulfilling legal aspects and leave them unclear on how to ensure the solemnity and dignity that marriage requires.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The concepts of dignity and solemnity need to be clearly defined, so that those nominated or applying to become officiants are left in no doubt what is required of them. For example, they need to understand what expectations of behaviour they should hold for those participating in a wedding ceremony to be appropriately respectful of the marriage taking place. Section 5.194 suggests that it is merely the conduct of the officiant that must uphold dignity and solemnity, but in fact to a certain extent the officiant should be responsible for ensuring that the content does likewise. If the officiant's job is to reflect the fact that "marriage is...a serious matter" they need to convey how that ought to be recognised in the ceremony as well as in their own demeanour.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In terms of the practical aspects laid out in the consultation document, it would be reasonable to issue guidance to all officiants. However, the General Register Office should recognise that some organisations, in particular religious organisations, may wish to place their own restrictions on what is deemed appropriate and dignified within the context of a wedding ceremony, or to include certain elements important to their beliefs.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That really depends on the criteria applied for assessment. The notion of "fit and proper" is subjective, and differences of opinion between the General Register Office and certain religious organisations may lead to officiants being de-authorised when their nominating body still considers them an appropriate person to hold the office.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is more than a mere contract, so more should be required than merely signing the schedule. The signing of the schedule could still be considered an expression of consent for legal purposes, but making certain promises to one another publicly is at the heart of marriage so these should be retained. It is very important that marriage remain a public with the support of family and community (not simply a private arrangement). The public expression of consent, if non-verbal, would need to be in a way that is traditionally recognised by the religious body conducting the ceremony, rather than having the couple simply opting not to speak.

The removal of the requirement to express that there is no impediment to the marriage seems unnecessary. It takes very little time and there is a certain significance to having each party declaring that they are free to marry, in front of everyone present.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would be very important that officiants received adequate training in how to maintain the serious commitment of marriage, and not allow it to be trivialised or commercialised, so that when approached by the couple they could help to set suitable expectations about activities and venues that are appropriate to getting married.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In the context described in the consultation document, this repeal appears reasonable. However, it would be important to clarify that this is not intended to prevent those marrying in civil ceremonies from having a subsequent blessing or celebration in a religious building, and that such events can be held before or after the legal civil ceremony takes place.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is important for society as a whole, so the public nature of marriage should be recognised by retaining the open doors aspect of the ceremony. The public, accessible nature of a wedding is an essential safeguard against any kind of fraud, bigamy or forced marriage. If equality is sought, rather than remove this requirement, it should be applied to all weddings, with allowances made for a pre-arranged exception, for example the marriage of a terminally ill patient on a protected hospital ward or in a private home, or a marriage taking place where there is a security concern.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There would be many benefits to broadening the range of venues where marriage is permitted to take place and this is certainly worthy of consideration. However, there are certain places in which the dignity and solemnity of marriage would not be upheld, so there should definitely be some restrictions still in place on what constitutes an appropriate location.

Please share your views below:

It is not possible to define, in such broad categories, what would be an appropriate or inappropriate venue for a wedding. For example, "in the air" could mean a treehouse, a plane or hot air balloon, or all members of the wedding party taking part in a sky-diving activity. Whereas some of these might be safe and dignified, others would definitely not be and the ability of the couple to take their decisions and commitment seriously would be called into question. Since the exchanging of certain public promises are intrinsic to marriage, it would be important that any venue where the couple could not be heard by others be deemed unsuitable for a wedding ceremony.

### Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should very much be seen as an exception/exemption because of the couple's circumstances, rather than the norm: the public nature of a wedding is symbolised by the accessibility of the venue.

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There are many instances in England and Wales of organisations not owning their own building and renting rooms or a whole building on certain days. It could be the case that the same building is used by a religious group and a non-religious group and in those circumstances, both ought to be entitled to use it for weddings if they so wish. This should also apply to the owners of such a building: should any difference of opinion/belief arise between the owners and the hirers, they should not be prevented from holding weddings.

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiant was seeking assistance; otherwise they should be left to make the decision for themselves.

### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants may hold different views on this matter, therefore if a venue was pre-approved an officiant may need to reserve the right to decline to officiate there. It might be better to leave it up to the officiant in every case.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is difficult to envisage a point at which electronic security is so much improved that an electronic signature can take the place of a physical one. Marriage is so significant and so important that it would be a risk to encourage circumstances in which someone could be incorrectly recorded as married, either by error or by design, by electronic signature. Great caution should be taken with this idea.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Factors 2 and 3 are far too fundamental to the nature of marriage and must surely play a part in ensuring a marriage is legally valid? Witnesses are required to fulfil the public nature of marriage and to attest that the appropriate documents are signed. As has been discussed in previous sections, the signing of the schedule or marriage document constitutes a consent to be married (and if the proposals go ahead, could in some cases constitute the only time the couple consents throughout the ceremony) so without it the marriage cannot legally be deemed to have taken place.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of 2, where a couple gives notice and goes through a ceremony with an officiant, it is important that a public declaration of consent was included if this eventuality did not include the signing of the schedule or document.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are distinct differences between marriage and cohabitation and these ought to be reflected in marriage law. Marriage is legal and public, with specific requirements on the spouses, whereas cohabitation is a private arrangement. Statistically the two have significantly different outcomes for both the couple and any children they have. With the developments in public record-keeping, there is no longer any reason to assume a couple is legally married if they cannot provide documentary evidence.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the light of the current situation all these provisions seem reasonable. However, without very rigid definition of what constitutes an emergency situation, these provisions would be open to manipulation or abuse.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, precise definition would be required of what constitutes an emergency to avoid manipulation or abuse of this legislation.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone, at any time, might be at risk of death. Adequate proof ought to be required of serious illness or other risk to life before extending these provisions.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Despite the difficulties which this issue may entail, allowing couples not to state the name of the intended officiant would provide a loophole which would be open to exploitation. Provision would need to be made for couples to find out who the officiant on board would be.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Potentially there could be this demand, so the question should not be ruled out.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Currently many couples choose not to get married and cite a number of reasons for not doing so including cost, inconvenience, the perceived unimportance of being married. Marriage is, however, a great benefit in many ways, both to society and to individual families, especially to children, and should be encouraged as much as possible. It is not possible to say how much these proposed changes would impact on the number of people getting married, given that many do not cite legal restrictions for their decision not to marry. So long as marriage is culturally disparaged and undermined the number of couples marrying is likely to continue to fall.

With regard to couples (or one half of a couple) who believe they are legally married when in fact they are not, this is clearly a cause for concern and women in particular should be given protection from this situation. Legislation which makes the fact of being married or unmarried clearer will undoubtedly provide some help, but it should be recognised that in spite of this, and of any legal prohibition to mislead someone into believing they are married, this will still continue. Other means of ensuring individuals can guard against falling into that situation, such as clear education on the subject, should be considered alongside this legislation. The requirement to include a comprehensive explanation of the nature and benefits of marriage in the secondary RSE curriculum is therefore of vital importance, although this element is sadly neglected in many RSE programmes.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUR-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 15:12:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My husband and I had an official wedding in a register office, followed by a church blessing.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

My husband and I believed that the wedding vows are important as they stand.



Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We have not attended any weddings during the Covid pandemic.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that weddings are planned and taken seriously.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This just might open the way to forced marriage. Teenage girls need more protection than this would give.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This is to give protection to young people being pushed into forced marriage.  
It would also give some protection regarding fake marriages for the purposes of illegal entry into the country.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. An in person interview is important in trying to prevent sham marriages or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No. Again, there needs to be more protection against forced marriages and sham marriages.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How could the safety of someone escaping an abusive previous marriage be assured?

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I don't see why not.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why this needs to be changed

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This seems quite sensible.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This could help prevent sham marriages.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This could help prevent sham marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This would be more appropriate for weddings conducted in other religious places, such as mosques and non Anglican churches.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars as they do not have their own.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they are then properly trained.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too vague.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is too vague. What is unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality?

This could penalise a church which promotes traditional marriage.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. Just because someone had an office in the organisation does not mean they are suitable as officiants.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that only highly trained registrars or religious representatives who have strong beliefs on marriage officiate.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a set fee.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words forms the foundations of the marriage vows.  
There is plenty of room for other words to be used by the couple later in the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the couple are making.  
There is plenty of room for personal words later.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My husband and I had a wedding in a register office, followed by a service of blessing in our church. Why should this be repealed?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement is important, making it clear that a wedding is not just a private affair but is important to society.  
Making sure weddings are open to the public also helps to protect against forced marriage and bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How would suitable venues be guaranteed?

The current law allows weddings to take place in venues registered for the purpose, this at least gives some guidance.

Please share your views below:

As a wedding is a public occasion, these private venues should be restricted.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public ceremony.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is just too confusing? Why would a religious ceremony not be held in a church?  
Why would a non religious ceremony not be held in a civil venue?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be rules, and the officiant should not be able to overrule that.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above, there should be general rules

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office gives official rules

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know how safe this would be.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The register must be signed, and witnesses are needed.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would a couple marry and then separate?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that a marriage is legal and not just presumed.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the couple should be there in person and the ceremony open to the public.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, there would be no safeguards against forced marriage .

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sufficient safeguards

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again not sufficient safeguards

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't k now

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No idea

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Getting married in a register office is cost effective and straight forward.

I am not sure if your proposals would increase the number of marriages.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is easy to marry without incurring much cost, it is the reception that costs most money and couples don't have to have one.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Nothing to add

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUU-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 15:22:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Question is unclear like others following. If about the 7 days then that could be less.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The practice is also to do this in Parish in which you live. Should be option to shift that to any Anglican Church where you are on the electoral roll

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Poorly worded question. Good to have the power to ask for documentary evidence and to have the power to meet with each of the couple separately but neither should be a requirement.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican Church is established and part of the fabric of the nation

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Smaller Churches may not have the expertise or objectivity or personnel needed to conduct weddings so need a registrars services.

Really detest the potential for the law allowing or in anyway encouraging all but the minimum necessary market of Independant celebrants. They have little enough bar to the standard of content they need to ensure.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no bar set on what that non-religious belief is. It itself could be disrespectful of marriage and so inherently devalue the what the law surrounding marriage.

Please share your views below:

Seems to be the wrong approach to define what is not okay. Should define what is okay as current law. Anything else will open up marriage to potential abuse.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The sincerely held belief needs to be a pro marriage one. Any proposal needs to state that clearly within it so the current proposal is inadequate.

20 members seems very small, likely dynamic, and I doubt that can be objectively determined on an ongoing basis. This would put unnecessary burden on the State.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Public policy and morality is dynamic so it is meaningless to even suggest it is possible to determine what it would allow. Promoting purposes that unlawful would be definable and I support that. Trouble is the result of this consultation may lead to a law so weak that what is unlawful amounts to very little and undermine the intention behind the consideration of any exclusion.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes provided memberships were in the millions and had an accountable hierarchy. I guess that applies to the Roman Catholic Church but few others organisations.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Object to role of independent officiants being expanded. Want state or established church to provide and police this.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This must be a minimum requirement

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is not enough proof. Must be some rule about criminal record and the state will need to determine that.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only agree if that applies to all especially independent officiants

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Discriminates against those nominated by organisations. Do not want marriage officiants to be anyone other than public servants as registrars and clergy are.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This discriminates against the religious. Rather avoid independent officiants entirely. Also existing Registrars would need to be similarly restricted.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum requirement

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This need would only arise from the inherent deficiencies in the proposed changes to open up officiants of marriages so wide that the control over quality is lost. If that is to be done then I would strongly answer Yes.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

While minded to answer Yes, the state also has a big responsibility to not grant responsibility to organisations without sufficient resources to monitor individuals

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum requirement

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not happy that the tax payer should have to carry this burden. Rather have public servants do the role not the commercial sector. Government is usually poor at regulating

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs prescribed words so there is a common understanding of what marriage means.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is so vague as to be meaningless. Under this there could merely be the signing of a piece of paper.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs a common core requirement in wording and if someone wants a type of wedding it must follow their agreed form otherwise it is not by definition 'that type of wedding'.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be limited to prescribed single faith although not denomination.

Please share your views below:

Any content from a recognised faith groups authorised service.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Seems an entirely unnecessary limitation of current freedom.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are not a secret society and this just feeds the commercialisation of weddings. That weddings are public occasions is one of the key safeguards that they are carried out properly and with due respect. This is the most disturbing proposal in this consultation and looks to be a recipe for enabling abuse.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Very stupid idea and could limit the ability of the community to have access. Places themselves need to be fit for purpose in a similar way to the officiants and the wordings - giving the wedding the reverence needed. Indeed this is likely to limit the ability of some disabled people to attend which is highly offensive.

Please share your views below:

No for all the reasons in the answer above

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answers to Q48

Consultation Question 50:



No

Yes

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 and 2 can be up to the organisations concerned.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current registration system is much more robust than this and should continue. Don't want weak officiants leaned on or commercially incentivised to make poor decisions.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum requirement

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Rather it not needed

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why have two systems. Suggest keep existing one rather than have two.

Please share your views below:

As now

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Work as now

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be in the official languages of the country concerned

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The technology already exists so odd question.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 is ok as mistakes happen but 2 and 3 look more relate to allowing abuse so not in favour of those.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum requirement

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm inclined to answer yes but am concerned that on the negative impact on any either of the couple who may have believed they were married or rights or entitlements of any children

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Important safeguard that needs retaining

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum requirement

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Important safeguard for someone who maybe particularly vulnerable.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1 and 2. No to 3 and 4.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See no need for this - prevents access of the wider community

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Should not be allowed

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1 and no to 2. 2 opens up potential abuse.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't know

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Minimum requirement

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Unaware of any need

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Another reason not to permit this practice.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Registration officer may live nearer the wedding location.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't believe it is fair that local authorities should be saddled with limits that do not also apply to independent officiants.

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No to the housebound. Yes to the others.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Good to show mercy

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The rate should be a commercial one as the activity is commercial. See no reason for taxpayers to provide such service at cost.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Church of England prices are low and where necessary waved. It is the other unnecessary consumerism associated with weddings that is the main problem. Adding the higher charges of independent officiants does not help the overall situation.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Good to have, 2 and 3 No benefit at all if new problems arise with such marriages

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This should have no bearing whatsoever on marriage legislation.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Irrelevant. LA's need to do what they are required by legislation.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

For 1. Fear that these costs will be disproportionately greater than any benefits given the proposals enable so much more unregulated behaviour be it independent officiants, unrestricted venues, and abandonment of prescribed wordings.

For 4. it will no doubt lead to an unnecessary increase in income of no benefit to wider society who will need to pick up the bill where things go wrong and to some unfortunate couples delivered a distressing and inadequate service who have to bear a disproportionate level of solicitors costs to sort out the results of poor service.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUD-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 16:03:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person. Couples who wish to marry in a religious building, such as a church, because they are both of a religious faith, might be unable to if their church did not have an authorised person. This removes the couples choice of marrying in their preferred location.

Consultation Question 21:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

“Contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. Those with legal views, which happen to be currently unpopular, could be prevented from being nominating officiants. The test should focus on objective criteria, such as organisations that promote purposes outside of the law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage. There is also a risk that such independent officiants would seek to gain financially from conducting wedding ceremonies, which in turn undermines the seriousness of the marriage commitment.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Not having such prescribed words, reduces the ceremony to a casual event which is in danger of being virtually meaningless.

Currently, due to the prescribed words, there is a consistency to the meaning of all marriages. This would be lost, without the prescribed words. There is already plenty of scope in the remainder of the ceremony, to be flexible as to what is included.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the couple is making than that it is personalised to the them.  
Fully-tailored wedding ceremonies will encourage commercialisation.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is is important to society as a whole, and the current open doors requirement reflects this.  
Open doors are also a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. Venues need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', so that they do not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFU3-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 16:29:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

y marriage is recognised

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Continue

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wht not?

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Unless these declarations are included in the wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the words 'dignity' and 'solemnity' should be defined to emphasise that this is a ceremony the intention of which is to begin a lifelong commitment and therefore any sort of 'frivolous' venue should be excluded.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a compulsory form of words in every ceremony which requires both parties to state publicly that they are free to marry the other and wish to do so. These declarations should be included in the marriage document signed by them.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my answer to the previous question

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

agree subject to my answer to question 42

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages are of interest and importance to society as a whole and the public should be given the opportunity to attend.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my answer to question 35

Please share your views below:

It is unlikely that some of these proposed venues would comply with my recommendations about dignity, solemnity and public access.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitions required. See above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps this will meet my point about definitions.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps the General Register Office could compile a list to which officiants could refer.

Please share your views below:

See answer 53

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Welsh only

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses should be necessary in the public interest

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing should take place remotely

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think such venues are unlikely to meet the 'dignity' requirement or even the 'safe' one.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly: but see previous answer

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

This would cause problems with public access

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDMF-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 17:14:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

West Sussex County Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

West Sussex Registration Service

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As manager [REDACTED] the unfortunate effects of the lockdown were exacerbated by the "traditional" nature of the legislation, and couples not understanding that legislation prevented us from being able to assist them with rational requests

eg

Extend their Notice period ( primary legislative change prevented this)

Change their venue without redoing their notice ( primary legislative change prevented this)

Extend the Licence period for Licensed Venues ( GRO interpretation of legislation which appeared silent on this - but as they write the guidance little chance of successfully overturning this)

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems completely irrelevant in a modern society

#### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could raise issues with S24 reporting of Sham marriages if the first part is remote.

A longer period between the in person interview & marriage date for foreign nationals could assist this.

Not all couples would want / be able to do this on line - If this became the most popular option there is a danger of the "in person" interview being less available. ( particularly if it cost more to provide)

Forced marriages may be less easy to prevent - Again additional safeguards needed at the in person interview.

It would be resource intensive to create our own system - this should be National and allow a link to book / request a in person interview at a location convenient for them

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Seven working days as a absolute minimum. The schedule needs to be issued and sent to officiant in good time.

This may be insufficient time if a S24/ forced marriage issue is raised for a proper investigation

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

NO

It would be very difficult to pick up sham/ forced in any online system. Also if we only invited people in when this was suspected this would tip couples off that we have suspicions and could cause Registrars to be placed in a very difficult/ dangerous position

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes - for the initial first part on line system.

#### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Possibly - Provided less info was displayed - Personal info on line could lead to data protection issues and ID fraud, as well as unwelcome marketing information.

Objections to marriage have virtually never been as result of this public display, but come when families object due to perceived non capacity/ inheritance issues - and in these cases they know, they never come to our head office & notice the display .  
This was when society was locally based. I cannot see any reason why this information should be publicly displayed

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Its a reasonable time - However it would be helpful to build in the ability to extend this if for example there was a future pandemic which meant many notices went out of time for no good reason.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) Yes - provided that groups like County Council Registrars can be recorded as a generic group not as individuals
- 2) Yes - but may be a fee & cut off point when it can no longer be amended prior to the Marriage/ CP for logistical reasons

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - as long as possible to check new officiant authorised quickly And couple understand consequences if not.

Please share your views below:

death, sudden illness or unavoidable delay covers everything as far as I can see.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No Comment

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No Comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No Comment

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No Comment

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No Comment

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

To create an even playing field Universal Civil Preliminaries should apply - better control of sham/ Forced/ safeguarding etc.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There would obviously have to be provision for full cost recovery (to be charged for the attendance of the officiant, even if they are not leading the ceremony, and the officiant should be properly trained and the training must be refreshed regularly and that officiant should face sanctions for non-compliance with regulations.

If officiants are permitted to make a profit, then all officiants should be permitted to make a profit, there must be a level playing field.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If civil preliminaries are universal and any religious or non religious marriage is legally recognised then a registrar should be able to officiate at any wedding regardless of who is leading the ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be reasonable to have that as the legal necessity, however registration services should be able to insist on sending two members of staff under certain circumstances - ie large numbers, unusual venue, out of hours, couple unknown to service ( ie gave notice out of county)

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No to both - If UCP ( universal Civil Preliminaries) are in place then civil officiant should attend ceremonies regardless of who leads.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Please share your views below:

There must be a recognise list if the Government goes down this route.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No to Both - If UCP in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No - If UCP in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No - If UCP in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More appropriate for LA to maintain a local list.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some liaison with LA as well - The GRO will not be aware of any local concerns.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But If UCP in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - If UCP in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - If UCP in place then a civil officiant should attend all ceremonies regardless of who leads the ceremony.  
If any are allowed to make profits then they all should be

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If enabled independent officiants should be subject to universal full cost recovery fee if that is applicable to other officiants.

ALL officiants should either be full cost recovery or able to make profits - SAME rules should apply to all officiants.

If full cost recovery this should be defined & it MUST be clear about VAT status of this fee

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure, however if UCP in place, then a civil officiant would be in attendance regardless of who led, so this would not be an issue

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That would be the local authority ( who would be their employer and nominator) or the holder of the local list of authorised officiants

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

THE LA should act, but if they fail to act the GRO should have overall ability to remove people.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

THE LA should act, but if they fail to act the GRO should have overall ability to remove people.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be time limited membership fee ( to cover costs) subject to renewal and any applicable regulations ( ie Public liability insurance) as with other public bodies, and an automatic deregistration if inadequate CPD is undertaken .

This will help keep the list up to date and cleansed ( ie remove deceased / people that have not worked for many years but forgotten to withdraw)

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should apply to all officiants.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1) - no maintain status quo if able, parties should express oral consent, and confirm no impediment

2) Yes - provided that the expression of consent & confirmation of no impediment is a universal requirement that makes any marriage ceremony legally recognisable

3) No - they should have done this orally as well - see above

4) The marriage should be formed when the final signature entered on the schedule after oral statements.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The form and ceremony should be chosen by the parties but the basic legal requirement of oral consent & no impediment should be universal

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The form and ceremony should be chosen by the parties and the religious group concerned but the basic legal requirement of oral consent & no impediment should be universal, so a marriage is recognisable.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The legal parts should be secular, however embellishments such as music and readings with religious content - that do not have legal standing - should be permitted.

Please share your views below:

I don't think specific examples other than above need to be spelled out .

The only things that should not be permitted would be things that did not comply with equality and diversity rules

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone should be able to celebrate in any way they choose after a legal marriage, but in all cases it should be clear that such a celebration is not a legal marriage.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

any rules need to be consistent across all weddings.  
Objections should be lodged at the notice stage or after

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - however all venues/ locations should have some sort of a license ( which may be very temporary) to establish permission of owner, a Responsible person being present, appropriate insurance & risk assessments

These licences should attract full cost recovery

.

Please share your views below:

No locations should be automatically disqualified, however some checks and balances would be needed

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason for this.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the Licensing authority

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A dynamic risk assessment should be carried out on the day by the officiant, however the location should be preapproved/ licensed in some way to include risk assessments ( see Q48)

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should be covered by a light touch licensing / preapproval system ( see Q48)

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would be covered if the LA preapproved/ Licensed either for a series of weddings or for one offs where required.

Please share your views below:

This would be covered if the LA preapproved/ Licensed either for a series of weddings or for one offs where required.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as before signed

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long marriage is in Wales.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as long as

Accurate & representative signature can be recorded

There is a contingency in place if the electronic system fails ( many venues are rural with poor internet reception)

The officiant is responsible for back capture in the event of IT failure.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) yes
- 2) yes
- 3) No The marriage should be void if the officiant is not authorised regardless of knowledge of couple
- 4) No The marriage should be void if the opt in has not been given regardless of the knowledge of couple
- 1)

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- 1) retain current arrangement - typographical mistakes should not render marriage void, but a significant error which could call into question the identity of the party should render it void.
- 2) Yes - Must be signed by all present including witnesses to be valid
- 3) Yes - As above

### Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- 1a , 1 b I or ii should be enough individually to make marriage non qualifying.

### Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All legal processes should have been fulfilled for this presumption, however couple couple have co-habited should be irrelevant

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No reason for this time limit

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to both - Absolutely

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Yes -

The statutory fees for these services are nowhere near the cost of providing them and neither are they in line with each other . These fees should be regularly reviewed so as to represent full cost recovery.

The doctors letter should be more specific so as to prevent people being signed off as on their death bed but still able to attend other appointments

It is completely inappropriate for wider council tax benefits to subsidise these events for customers who can afford to pay the standard fees just because they are ill.

It is often the case that people only choose to do this to avoid inheritance tax whilst having enjoyed some benefits due to not being married.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should represent full cost recovery if a home visit is necessary.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be far more efficient for the Local authority, rather than GRO should have the ability to reduce the waiting period, subject to confirmation by the doctor and this should include the ability to take notice at home or in a clinical setting for the terminally ill patient ( at cost recovery rates)

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These should be quite short - 28 days more than sufficient, and the ceremony should take place ASAP. If there is a year permitted there is no need for couples to seek a reduction in the waiting period. If it expires they must begin & pay) again.

Couples can choose to wait, denying the seriousness of an illness until it is actually too late for the sick party to understand what is going on An expiry date would focus their mind.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as there is no particular urgency in these cases so the 12 month validity should remain so as to be consistent with all other civil marriages

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

1. yes
2. No - a two part mainly remote could work well but an in person part of the process is still needed to check for safeguarding/ Sham/ Forced
3. no
- 4 No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All people are at risk of death during pandemics.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That would work ok, providing there was very clear advice regarding technicalities of the registration district they are in when on the borders between Scotland and England.

Consultation Question 69:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be sensible if the port of choice was the port of registration of the vessel

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes - on vessels registered in the UK with a Captain on board with recognisable commercial qualifications

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to both provided they have the same training and are subject to the same CPD as other officiants

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic copies should be within 7 days, and the hard copy ASAP.

The marriage could then be registered on receipt of the electronic copy but certificates not issued until the hard copy has been received

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Full cost recovery and regularly reviewed

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

1) It is not appropriate or fair for the wider council tax payers to substantially subsidise the marriage of a customer who could potentially be able to pay the same fee for getting married just because they are terminally ill particularly as most have known of the illness for a long period and could have married in the normal way. Many are seeking to avoid inheritance tax by making a last minute decision to get married, thus avoiding a tax contribution.

Consultation Question 77:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be set at district level at full cost recovery

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If it reflected a full "average cost" a statutory fee is easier and fair to all. Local Registration services would not then be under pressure to raise fees.

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should be set at full cost recovery set by the LA. Full cost recovery should include all the costs for the local authority work in relation to ceremonies, including on costs and non direct costs and it should not be just based on the registrars hourly rate

If it reflected a full "average cost" a statutory fee is easier and fairer to all. Local Registration services would not then be under pressure to raise fees. It would also mean VAT not applicable which raises the cost to couples.

If it was a low Stat fee, the LA will end up officiating with a celebrant ( who is permitted to charge far more) doing the ceremony and making a big profit leaving the LA to cope with all the legal parts for a minimal fee.

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees for discretionary services should be dictated by the market place alone and should not be regulated nor related to cost recovery. The income stream can significantly reduce the financial burden on the wider Council Tax payer and allow local registration services to better self fund whilst supporting the free statutory provision of birth & death Registrations.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that this should be a set fee for any wedding UNLESS full cost recovery and regularly reviewed.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

It should be set at a level for full cost recovery. The vast majority of RGL cases are for couples who are seeking to avoid the payment of inheritance tax upon the death of one of the parties. Most have known of the illness for a long time and have had ample opportunity to commit to their partner if they so wish.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If authorised officiants can operate anywhere within E&W then the RG should set fees nationally on a full cost recovery basis

Alternatively if Authorised officiants can only operate in the district where they are registered then the LA should set fees on full cost recovery basis.

Any fees in either case should include the cost of verifying qualifications are valid and CPD up to date.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

- 1) No
- 2) NO

The proposals will increase choice but no evidence or anecdotal feedback to suggest couples are foregoing getting married because of current legal restrictions. Deregulation of marriages is therefore unlikely to lead to an increase in the number of marriages taking place ( did it in Scotland / elsewhere?)

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

- 1) these marriages are already subsidised by the income from higher cost weddings as they are set far to low to recover costs
- 2) These fees are a relatively small amount compared to the total cost of getting married. Comparison with celebrants who only perform a non statutory ceremony with no legal implications show the legal offering as usually cheaper.
- 3) this stat fee does not cover the costs of sending a registrar and should be updated for full cost recovery and regularly reviewed.
- 4) this does not make sense as they can't get married there. If couples wish to have a celebration of a marriage this is their choice and the costs incurred are not set by us. They are free to shop around
- 5) see 4 - There a range of affordable options already available for a legal marriage

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

- 1) if the registration service loses the income from external licensed premises then the cost of register office weddings in decommissioned rooms would have to rise significantly to cover costs.
- 2) there would be a lot of challenges with couples getting married in any location without any form of pre-approval
- 3) Although couples who choose to get married in any location may not have a separate legally recognised wedding the costs of getting married are unlikely to be reduced as a trained qualified officiant would have to attend to make the marriage legal and the location would have to be assessed to least once prior to the marriage to ensure it was safe & dignified. One off venues would incur additional costs for these pre-ceremony risk assessments that are required by law for any business or organisation operating legally within H&S legislation

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

- 1) licensed venues are already operating as public facing businesses and should already be complying with all legal obligations re planning & H&S. These are not costs of being licensed, but often being licensed forces them to comply which is a positive thing.  
The costs of becoming a licensed venue is quite small spread over three years and minimal in comparison to the income generated as a result of being licensed.
- 2) these costs are covered by the couple, not the venue. We rarely turn couples away as we try and staff according to demand.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

- 1) safety checks would still need to be in place
- 2) if less income it may result in less being employed, thus less availability
- 3.) The scheme would give more choice to couples according to wishes and beliefs
- 4) This scheme is unlikely to increase weddings long term, just the choice of where & who can marry them.

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Because of the unfunded free provision of Births and deaths services and the free advice to assist couples struggling to understand the complex requirements (often those that choose a statutory cost wedding) most Local Authorities subsidise these services with income from higher cost marriages. Removing this monopoly on secular marriages will lead to a reduction in services offered, unless other funding streams are found.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If full cost recovery fees were charged for services currently underfunded it would be better.

We would be able to conduct weddings outdoors (growing demand for this despite it often being impractical in the British climate) and we could be far more flexible on content, which would please some couples.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

- 1) none - We are required to follow the requirements of the country they are getting married in
- 2) Longer waiting period applies but this is necessary & well publicised

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

- 1) it could possibly reduce the numbers of couples who travel to get married abroad, but unlikely to be significant as England does not have the climate that most couples are looking for
- 2) There may be a slight increase in people travelling to the UK to get married from Overseas, however it seems unlikely as in our experience most overseas Nationals who choose to get married here do so as they are marrying a UK National. We really don't have the climate to attract couples to the UK as a destination wedding.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No Comment / knowledge

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No Comment / knowledge

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

- 1) Our costs will increase and we will be forced to charge more for the services we do retain.
- 2) unlikely to be a significant change, just move from one business to another.
- 3) No Comment
- 4) No comment
- 5) Costs are likely to increase - Celebrants charge more for a non statutory service already - so if they have to do more are likely to charge more if unregulated - But if they can't make a profit then they won't operate.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUX-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-24 21:14:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have been officially married for 61 years

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our church relies on the presence of a civil registrar as our Pastor is not an authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

"contrary to public policy or morality" is too loose an assessment and could be used by persons opposing another person being nominated purely on the grounds of not being in line with public opinion or for standing by Biblical principles.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should only be those who have high views of marriage and its obligations. Nothing should be done which gives the impression that marriage is a trivial matter.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words are a meaningful expression of what marriage is all about. Without these prescribed words marriage could degenerate into just getting a marriage certificate. Serious promises need to be made to encourage the couple to take marriage seriously.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple need to be faced with the seriousness of the commitment of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors helps to ensure that the marriage is not a forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Here is a dilemma. Many churches no not have their own building and meet in buildings that are not registered for weddings. Yet to allow weddings to take place anywhere opens the door to making marriage undignified and just a fun affair.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again this would not guard against the danger of a forced marriage.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUK-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-25 21:00:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Ok to use as suits

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Unable to have a wedding in England conducted and Legally Recognized by a humanist or independent celebrant.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed as above

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

All civil so there is no prejudice in law against those without Anglican faith. Civil law should precede faith privilege.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For non religious celebrants not all are members of an organisation.

Eg I am a humanist and celebrant, formerly an accredited celebrant to Humanists UK, but left this as people wanting ceremonies with a little nod to faith couldn't be accommodated.

So now as an independent celebrant, I can create ceremonies that fit the client, without being a member of any body.

The important issue is that the celebrant is QUALIFIED by a recognised trainer eg humanists UK accreditation OR civil ceremonies level 3 diploma.

Celebrant organisations vary in entry requirements - some are stringent, others will let anyone in! The risk is that untrained persons will be allowed to conduct legal weddings. So the focus should be qualification specifically in wedding celebrancy.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The key is independent celebrancy not JUST recognising humanist celebrants.

Not all humanist celebrants are members of humanists UK.

Weddings don't fit neatly into religious versus secular.

The key is QUALIFIED independent celebrant, perhaps recognised with done initials to indicate qualified wedding celebrant (Humanist) or QWC (Independent)

Please share your views below:

Again, focus shouldn't be about organisations but celebrant QUALIFICATION (level 3 diploma, studied in person, not online )

Non recognised groups not permitted to be recognised should include cults/new religious movements.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This excludes independent celebrants not tied to a celebrant association.

Yes recognise groups like humanists UK but also include qualified independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, only properly trained individuals lest the ceremony be substandard

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes only listed celebrants should be able to officiate.

For non religious ones these MUST hold a proper qualification to be considered in the register - whether from humanists UK or civil ceremonies.

Untrained individuals (that are not clergy) should not be able to apply.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes! Absolutely.

But not people simply calling themselves celebrants, or who have taken a short cut such as buying an online certificate/ordination.

These must be properly trained and qualified to level 3 diploma at least go through their competency.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This can be evidenced by qualification/certification as it will be assessed in training.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely both full celebrant training in weddings that is certified And mandatory training in legal aspects to meet registrar general requirements

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Many many hours go into crafting a bespoke ceremony, and few celebrants make a full time living.

Instead, make it compulsory to publish fees.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Have clear designations that a person is:

Authorised wedding celebrant (faith) or (humanist) or (independent).

There must be scope to change designation if the celebrant changes their beliefs, or leaves an organisation.

Eg a humanist leaves humanists UK to be one an independent.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance, and a common code of conduct

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not all organisations will monitor equally, and independents mag have no trade body!

A single organisation should monitor all to ensure consistency.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to an observation or assessment every 5 years to ensure standards don't slip.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but only in those led by qualified independents celebrants, not by registrars alone.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7X-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 01:13:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am married under law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

There were no legal barriers.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience of weddings during Covid 19

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the person has come from abroad to get married, having to wait an extra 7 days is an unnecessary expense.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Being in the public domain before the interview would help to flag up any objections that the registrar may want to look into more closely.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it should be instant providing that the information has been in the public domain for a month beforehand.

While marriage has serious implications and the proposal should be in the public domain long enough for people to object, if someone has traveled from abroad to be married, having to wait days can be expensive.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should always be in person, and with an individual by themselves to minimise the risk of sham or forced marriages.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes absolutely as long as there is an interview at a later date before the marriage.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be always published online to help minimise illegal marriages, and the individuals must be protected from any risk of harm if there is a known risk.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Those getting married often wish to make arrangements that involve other family members and may need a lot of time to organise, so 12 months seems fair.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Having an officiant and substitute officiant published on the schedule would also help to flag up any objections if those persons are associated with illegal marriages.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems wise to allow for such events.

Please share your views below:

Yes, such as a disagreement between the officiant and the couple on, say, the wording of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are one United Kingdom and national divisions should not exist unless absolutely necessary, no matter what denomination of church the marriage is being held in.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No knowledge of the existing rule so unable to comment.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The banns should be published in the same way as any wedding; no different rules should apply to the Anglican church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No, the clergy shouldn't be given any more power than any other officiant at a wedding.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both of the couple should declare individually with the registrar that there is no impediment, nothing to do with the Anglican Church.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

To treat people getting married in the Anglican Church differently to those not, seems archaic and discriminatory.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems a sensible measure to reduce the risk of forced or otherwise illegal marriage.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes because people having church or other weddings may not want the registrar to officiate as it may interfere with their traditions.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1 registrar is less expensive than 2.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If Clerks in 1 church are recognised as officiant, then it would only be fair for clerks in all places where marriage could take place to be recognised as officiant, which isn't an issue as long as a registrar can ensure that the ceremony is carried out according to law.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All wedding venues should be treated equally as long as the wedding is carried out according to law, and treated with the solemnity that befits the consequences of entering into marriage.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone should be able to officiate at a wedding if they are qualified under law and a registrar is present to sign that the wedding was carried out properly.

Please share your views below:

Such organisations should not be treated any differently to anyone else as long as they do not promote any practice that is contrary to the law of the land.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why not as long as the wedding is judged to be legally binding by the registrar.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The law should expressly exclude organisations and individuals from officiating at weddings if they promote practices that are at odds with the rest of the law.

If the practices are not unlawful but are not regarded as in line with the majority's beliefs, then government should be careful not to ban such an organization or person officiating at a wedding, because that may be discriminatory towards a minority.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Both the organisation and the nominated official should be deemed suitable to officiate at a serious legally binding ceremony e.g. a wedding, by a registrar.

This is because, if both organisation and individual are vetted, it reduces risk of illegal marriages taking place.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because, like publishing proposed marriages (banns), publishing a list of officiants helps to flag up objections, and so reduces the risk of illegal marriages.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why not, as long as a registrar is present at a wedding to witness that it has been carried out legally.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes they should ensure that they nominate fit and proper persons but they should not be solely responsible; a registrar should also bear some responsibility in order to reduce the risk of unfit or improper persons being allowed to officiate.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This ensures that the person qualifying as an officiant continues to be a fit and proper person for that office, over passing years.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to forbid making a profit out of officiating at a wedding, as long as: a) the registrar can witness that the wedding was carried out according to the law and  
b) the wedding is not at odds with the officiant's beliefs and  
c) the couple getting married want that person to officiate at their wedding.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An officiant must declare any conflict of interest but this should not stop them officiating if the couple are happy for them to proceed.  
An officiant should be able to charge what they like as long as the couple can choose whoever they like to officiate, and there is no collusion over pricing between officiants.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I see no need to legislate on this point; organisations should be free to choose who they nominate to officiate, as long as they are deemed fit and proper by a registrar.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, marriage has legally and morally binding consequences and the officiant should uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage throughout the marriage ceremony; a registrar should be able to witness that the dignity and solemnity of marriage has been upheld throughout the legal part of the ceremony at least.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This establishes a level playing field for the officiating of marriage, and almost certainly will reduce any pressures on the registrar and officiant to compromise on the solemnity and binding nature of the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

While an organizations should have the responsibility to nominate officiants and a duty of care to insure they are fit and proper, the registrar should also be responsible to vet the officiant according to criteria of background checks.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a further measure to maintain the solemnity and dignity of the marriage ceremony by holding officiants and organisations accountable, which can only be a good thing with the legal and moral obligations that come with marriage.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a further measure to maintain the solemnity and dignity of the marriage ceremony by holding officiants and organisations accountable, which can only be a good thing with the legal and moral obligations that come with marriage.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes providing the ceremonies where they officiate are monitored.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should regularly attend classes and be tested to make sure they are up to date with current legislation but that should be reasonably affordable in relation to the number of weddings they officiate at and their income resulting from their services.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal covers various points and so cannot be answered simply 'yes' or 'no';

Proposal 1 - There should be checks beforehand to make sure there is both mutual consent and no legal impediment, but the point of the ceremony is to make vows in the presence of witnesses and solemnise the marriage, so both should continue to be included.

Proposal 2 Agreed as long as the statement is clear in law.

Proposal 3 - signing of the spoken marriage vows should continue to complete the legal document.

Proposal 4 - I would say the point of marriage is once both the legal text is signed and the vows have been spoken.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

While the details of the ceremony should be up to the couple getting married, the wording of the vows should include a clear unambiguous statement of commital to marriage as held under the law of the land.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

As long as the vows include a clear unambiguous statement of commital to marriage as held under the law of the land.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone should be free to practise religious belief at a marriage as long as it doesn't harm someone else and the solemnity of the legal vows are preserved.

Please share your views below:

Religious content should not be made specific as long as the legal vows are taken in solemnity.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious freedom of expression is a hard fought for freedom in the UK and this provision must not be repealed.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple getting married should be able to choose who attends the marriage, with the possible exception of the registrar, to make sure the wedding is legal.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The legal vows should be made in a registered hall, office or place of worship that duly reflects the solemnity of marriage.  
The non-legal part of the ceremony/celebrations could be held where people choose providing there is no harm to the environment in which it is held.

Please share your views below:

The legal vows should be made in a registered hall, office or place of worship that duly reflects the solemnity of marriage.  
The non-legal part of the ceremony/celebrations could be held where people choose providing there is no harm to the environment in which it is held.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the legal vows are made in a registered hall, office or place of worship that duly reflects the solemnity of marriage then there is no reason why it should be a place that is usually available to the public.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the owners or trustees of the venue are happy for the marriage to be solemnised at that venue, then there should be no objections.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be checked by a registrar first to make sure it befits the nature of the legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, the registrar must also be content that it is dignified for a legal ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this will help them work with the same code of conduct that should be insisted upon by a registrar.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any wedding venue should have pre-registered approval to help maintain the solemnity of marriage; it shouldn't be optional. Both Officiant and Registrar should approve the location for it to be registered as a wedding venue. This should be reviewed if there are changes to the appearance of the venue.

Please share your views below:

Both Officiant and Registrar should approve the location for it to be registered as a wedding venue. This should be reviewed if there are any changes to the appearance of the wedding venue.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are basic details which help in maintaining ancestry records.

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem sensible to register an English version as it is a much more universally known language.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Apart from security, being able to register a marriage electronically gives another option that may prove more convenient.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No issues with any of these proposals.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Part 1 - a minor mistake in the schedule may not be of any great consequence so should not render a marriage void.

Parts 2 and 3 - marriage is a serious undertaking with legal consequences; absence of witnesses or signatures to the document should render a marriage void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious undertaking with legal consequences.  
These processes are to ensure the validity of marriage and should not be overlooked.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'd not usually agree:  
The idea of marriage is that 2 people are joined in a solemn commitment.  
If they have not cohabited for any period afterwards, it raises serious questions as to the motive of the marriage; the only exception to this, I believe, is if one of the couple were very ill and later died or became incapacitated so that the couple could not cohabit after the marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple has never made the solemn legal commitment of marriage to each other, then they shouldn't be regarded by law to be married.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because someone could have not dared for many years to assert their lack of consent to the marriage.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Because of the serious legal nature of the ceremony.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I believe that people who are ill, housebound or dying should be free to marry if they wish to.  
However, prison is a result of serious criminal activity and involves limiting a person's freedom to do as they please, including cohabiting with loved ones.  
As marriage is a serious undertaking, it makes sense for a prisoner to wait until the end of a sentence to marry, unless on compassionate grounds i.e. in the case of terminal illness.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although the notice period may reasonably be shortened in such cases.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No issues with the proposal.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No issues with the proposal

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objections.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These seem wise precautions to have that could make a big difference to someone's life if difficult and unusual circumstances.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objections.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as there is reasonable evidence that the person is at risk of death.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious long term legal commitment and the legal vows should be held in surroundings that reflect the dignity and solemnity of the marriage commitment.

This may be possible on board a large ship but certainly not immersed in the water itself.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

As long as a ship has function rooms suitable to hold the legal ceremony in dignity and solemnity, this should be the guiding principle

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Both details of the vessel, and details the officiant should be given, to minimise the chance of an unauthorised person acting as officiant.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objections.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objections.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Proper standards befitting the solemnity of the legal vows should be maintained at all times.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There may well be demand for maritime weddings and these could be either religious or non religious.

However, conservative congregation members would be more likely to favour traditional land based weddings in a local community rather than at sea.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The time limit should be the same for everyone but allow long enough for cruises at sea.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Travel expenses should be paid by the taxpayer if the housebound person has a low income.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Travel expenses incurred by the registrar in such circumstances should be funded by the taxpayer.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objections.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fully support checks of this nature, and cost recovery seems a fair way to do this.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objections.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems fair.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objections.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Except where the housebound person has a low income or is on benefits.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Costs to be covered by taxpayer on compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems fair.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Part 1 - No evidence re current law.

Part 2 - As long as the dignity of marriage is upheld as suggested in earlier answers, there should not be a massive change in the demographics. However, I believe the waiving of fees in cases of low income and / or terminal illness may increase demand for weddings a little.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't recall large legal costs when I got married.

I was fortunate that the officiant donated his services for the ceremony itself.

Places not currently permitted to hold legal weddings are mostly with good reason as they tend to detract from the dignity of marriage.

Obviously more exotic locations have a larger price tag.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A legally recognised wedding does not have to be hugely expensive.

Of course any savings that can be made without detracting from the dignity of marriage can only be a good thing.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No data available.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Just re Number 1; having to meet certain criteria to get government approval is foundational to making sure a marriage is legal and dignified as befitting the nature of marriage.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No data available.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No data available.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do know that people coming from overseas to marry have to be present in the country for a while beforehand, which can make it difficult for them in terms of taking holiday from work, if they intend to live overseas after marriage.

I have said more on this in earlier parts of the consultation.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No data.

As answered earlier in the consultation re persons coming from overseas to marry.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No data available.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No data available.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No data available.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFR9-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 10:54:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have been married legally since 1977.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

we were unable to attend some weddings we had been invited to, due to Covid restrictions on numbers.



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

an interview is a good idea to ascertain that the intended marriage is being entered willingly, even if the person gives notice in person.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I don't think they should take place remotely. They should be in person.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should continue to be possible.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would it be ascertained that harm may result?

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

it seems like a reasonable and sensible idea.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This seems like a sensible idea.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a cap on what fees can be charged.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is not clear enough on what is meant by 'dignity and solemnity'. The proposals need to define what these terms mean as far as the value of marriage is concerned, not just for the wedding ceremony itself.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. It shouldn't be possible for anyone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.
2. There is already a large amount of flexibility allowed in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways, but they should still be included.
3. Couples might say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.  
and it risks undermining the solemnity of the ceremony and the lifelong commitment being made.
4. Some specific phrases should be included to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.  
• A wedding is not just about the couple. Society and the law have an interest in the public declaration being made. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society  
and has been legally defined for centuries. The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. Marriage would become an entirely private matter and it removes marriage from the law and wider society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If we are to uphold the seriousness and solemnity of the marriage ceremony, we must ensure that the form and content are appropriate for such a significant event. Allowing such fantasy themes as Lord of the Rings, Alice in Wonderland, Harry Potter, James Bond, Game of Thrones, Star Wars and Beauty and the Beast, does not reflect how seriously marriage should be taken. All of these have been done in unofficial ceremonies, along with a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns'. It makes a mockery of what should be a serious and mature commitment in a legal covenant.  
A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. When marriage is entered into like a science fiction game or a fairy tale, it will not be entered into in the dignity and responsible way marriage requires.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

there is no reason to remove this since it merely states the obvious, that a person can also add a more meaningful religious service if they have had a civil wedding.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is very important that all weddings remain open and public affairs.

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

Forced marriages are still a problem in our society and the open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against such marriages .

To remove the requirement encourages the false idea that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Due to the seriousness and solemnity of the marriage ceremony, venues should not simply be allowed because couples think they would be 'fun', but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant public ceremony.

There may be benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example for churches who don't own their own building), but this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.

Please share your views below:

If couples are allowed to hold their ceremonies "in the air", it means the 'safe and dignified'

test doesn't seem too hard to meet. Would weddings also be allowed in Burger King and suchlike? A hot air balloon, airplane or private home is hardly open to the public, and as stated earlier, I feel the Open Door policy is important to retain.

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes, underwater, and particularly distastefully to the honour which should be afforded marriage; in a 'Sadism and Masochism Dungeon'. It is completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no clarity as to how these venues would be tested for safety and dignity.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although the proposals ask for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed. A S&M Dungeon may be considered 'safe' in technical terms but it is not an appropriate place for the solemnisation of the covenant of marriage.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There ought to be witnesses to every legal marriage. A marriage document should be signed by both parties.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should only take place where both parties are together in person to publicly and willingly commit to the covenant.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRP-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 11:16:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Can be tricky for people who live abroad or at a distance from each other

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Definitely not remotely - so easy these days to con people remotely

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Things sometimes change due to illness etc - would be a hassle to obtain new documents for a person, when the venue is already licensed,

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See last question

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think they should have that power

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes the couple should as it gives the opportunity to discuss if the couple understand what that means

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to work ok

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

we could end up with a Las Vegas style industry

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings today are prohibitively expensive already

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

100%

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends if that refers to the ceremony itself, or just what's legally required

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Is there such an obligation?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential that the consent is made orally before witnesses and written consent is also given, in order to guard against forced marriage

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not if it means moving away from the tried and tested way of guaranteeing that the couple understand the profundity of what they are doing, rather than just putting on a show for the cameras.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It has to be one or the other

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is not a private affair, and marriage is for the good of society, so should be celebrated as such in public. Also, by having the doors open it offers more protection for people who may be being forced into marriage by their families or traffickers against their will

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely not. There are too many examples already of many marriages taking place which are very much more to do with appearance rather than content.

I suppose if you have no idea of the depth of meaning attached to a lifelong vow, a novelty wedding where performance takes priority over substance may be the thing for you

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

See last question

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding ceremony should be open to the public

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be one or the other because there is an essential difference between the two

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not a good idea to leave something so important to the whim or personal agenda of the officiant

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You must realise that this is open to an officiant being persuaded to go with whatever the couple have decided,

To ensure a venue is safe is easy enough, but dignified - that's a whole other matter.

I can see it becoming like 'themed funerals' which very often are tacky and far from dignified

No

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO like most Government Agencies tend to go for populism, so are likely to buy in to whatever anyone thinks is dignified, rather than having a standard to which everyone would keep.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Who could possibly be responsible for it in a way that they could make it work? People do what they like these days, with no fear of sanction, so I fear it would be a fruitless exercise

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely need witnesses and the back-up of registering the marriage, for the protection of the partners should things go horribly wrong later

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They're either married or they're not

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

If there's proof of lack of consent, which is what makes marriage valid, then why should there be a time limit on applying for an annulment?

Consultation Question 61:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No-brainer

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The party is still a normal human being

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

System works ok

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ok on extended schedules until after emergencies, but no to remote-controlled weddings  
- see earlier answers

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless in dire emergency - not as a norm

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think the Law has much to do with whether people get married. It's just where we are in our society at the moment.

There is no social stigma about not being married, and it leaves people free to change partners, have multiple partners, and often leave children without parents who have committed to them and to each other, and we all know the consequences of that.

I don't know all the reasons why people generally don't want to commit to one partner, although it's fair to say many do, but, as the Irishman said, 'If you're getting the milk for free, why would you buy the cow?'

As far as the Law is concerned, if you are really serious about encouraging the benefits of marriage, you need to make the terms of commitment worth fighting for, not relaxing the rules even further, so that it means very little, especially by making divorce so easy in a mistaken attempt to appear compassionate.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

You may help make savings, but the rest of the wedding industry certainly won't with the average wedding today costing between £20 - £30K. So the financial changes you make may well be minimal

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRZ-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 11:48:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a Private Citizen responding on my own behalf

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What is the evidence for seeking to change the period? What problems has the 7 day residential period given either to administer the restriction or for intended marriage couples to comply with it. What problems would the abolition present?

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes subject to validated checks on identity and appropriate checks during the visit to the registration district or the in-person interview be the same.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The period should be long enough for reflection by the couple involved and appropriate for legal reasons if required. It is not clear what the reasons are for either of the above defined periods to be appropriate nor is it clear what the purposes of the interview are nor whether the results of the interview could be used to prevent the marriage taking place.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes. The technology exists to do exactly that.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but with stringent controls to prevent the abuse of the information by the person enquiring.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is not clear what the 'schedule ' is nor what purpose it serves.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but subject to the other information on the schedule being appropriately kept for the 12 months period.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but should be included on the schedule at initial issue.

Please share your views below:

No doubt there will be many other valid circumstances which would apply, some for perhaps questionable reasons and it all will need to be defined at the start.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes but this should not inhibit the public declaration which should be made at the actual ceremony.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

No it can be a matter of choice for the couple

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes but their terms should include not using the occasion to encourage support for the non-religious organisation

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but this duty should include the dignity and general tone of the ceremony overall. It will require a definition of dignity and solemnity which covers all aspects of the ceremony and is not subject to the officiant arbitrarily moulding the definitions to suite the officiants underlying purpose.

Consultation Question 36:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No it should be more than guidance (clearly stating what is guidance and what is legally required) and should be enforceable

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This needs a much tighter definition of what can be regarded as a valid ceremony with all the implications of wording , intentions of the couple and so on. What is given above will lead to a totally lax and varied system which is effectively removing the essential core of a marriage system which includes some of the State aspects and is seen by all to be legally defined not differing on a whim of the couple at the time. It should be understood to be and therefore shown to be a solemn ceremony with responsibilities on all participants.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No a wedding is not simply what the couple might want at the time it is a formal ceremony showing the couple's intentions and saying so in public using a legal formula to help show the importance attached to marriage. The proposal is losing some essentials which are key to the whole procedure.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors are an important part of protecting against illegal or suspect practices such as forced marriages and also give a wider view for the community to take part. It also assists with the safety aspect of groups in an enclosed space.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not be allowed simply because a couple might want them. The building is part of the overall ceremony and should be seen as such. If the wedding is to be considered legal then the location and other aspects should be appropriate and not simply a novel idea at the time. Appropriate must be reasonably defined and the point made that when the couple are married they can still add to their celebration in whatever (legal) way suits them.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Any location must be considered for obvious reason such as safety but unusual ones should need authorisation and even places such as private homes may be subject to restriction. Any proposed venue should be covered by normal laws and appropriate insurance and attendees must be made aware of the risks being run by attending a venue not so covered.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But subject to a workable definition of safe and dignified

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But see above

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English or both English and Welsh

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not clear what is involved here and a better statement of the detail, implications etc is needed before I could comment sensibly

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRN-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 13:16:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The world is much more mobile and easily connected by other non physical ways these days.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Don't be restive about in person interviews if you can do it online via video link etc in a more modern way.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes remotely but good idea to provide protection for sham or forced marriages etc.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Good idea as video link calls can be done.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A substitute change should not t incur a fee. Things change sometimes!

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

There should be some form of checking if they are the officiant and are providing the marriage certificate.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes but don't put a time frame on this, so long as it takes place before the wedding.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should just be a need for one officiant who has the necessary training and approvals to officiate at weddings. It doesn't matter if they are registration officers, independent officiants or religious or non religious officiants.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Just one officiant at all weddings, either registration officer, religious, non religious or independent officiant.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Limits should be in place so independent officials don't make charges unreasonable and prohibitively expensive. Provision of marriage services should not be about making money

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it's fairly simple and just guidelines to ensure legality, and respect for the importance of marriage.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



May be needs to have the option of other input if something comes to light from outside the organisation. So it should be both via the organisation and alternative routes

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage ceremonies are personal and not for all and sundry to just watch if they fancy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Times have moved on and there are special places with importance to those marrying which may not be in a building. It's about the commitment and what you are saying as participants not the location.

Please share your views below:

Exact location is not relevant its about the commitment and the pledges to each other that are important. There should not be any limits. Those with money always find a way round limits leaving those less off feeling disadvantaged by the rules. The choice of where to get married should not be made elitist by rules.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Just not necessary to be open to the public its about the couple getting married with an officiant.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need for prohibiting things. Just be relaxed and let those getting married and the officiant decide what is best for them. The religious or non religious can allow or not as they wish. There's no need for the law to get involved.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, so long as those who can be an officiant is not so restricted that there isn't a choice of officiant available thereby restricting locations. The choice of location should be a joint decision between officiant and those getting married. There should not be any need for formal approval but others. Location just needs to be agreed between couple and officiant.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to advice so long as it's only advice and kept short and sensible not pages and pages!

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense for regular wedding venues to be on a list.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there should always be a paper copy of the document.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I can't see a reason why a marriage document need not be signed or the marriage registered. There should be provision for late registration.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a party has forgotten to give notice the officiant should be reminding them and there should not be a time restriction on giving notice.

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Either they have got married or they haven't it shouldn't be based on hearsay.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems like a good idea since we are in a pandemic which is restricting meeting people face to face.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the fee is reasonable and does not disadvantage those without much money. Being able to get married should not be discriminatory due to fees.

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be a fee. It should be for the officiant and couple to decide on a safe dignified location. As suggested earlier the officiant should follow guidance, no need for checking up by registration officers this is just unnecessary red tape and unnecessary regulation.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Fees and charges should not be prohibitive and disadvantage those without much money from having a choice about the location of their marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It would level things up so that money was not the deciding factor in where to get married. There should not be a necessity to have a separate legal wedding these always seem a thing to do because you have to and not important. This is antiquated legislation and no longer relevant in today's world. If the legal and personal ceremonies were not on the same date then this leads to confusion when completing documents as one tends to remember your personal ceremony date, even it wasn't the legal one.

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There should just be approved officiant no need for registration officers.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It will be great to reduce bureaucracy by allowing independent officiants without the need for registration officers as well. Don't duplicate things and thereby increase costs. Marriage is important and should not be defined by fees and costs. Keep these to a minimum and necessary. This will allow everyone to marry without discrimination.

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRA-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 14:31:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches depend upon having a civil registrar to register a wedding because, for various reasons, they do not have their own authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Objective criteria would be required to be applied in the exclusion of a nominated officiant, for example if the nominated officiant was engaged in illegal activity such as the promotion of terrorism. Subjective criteria must not be used, for example in questions of morality. Public perceptions of morality can change over time, and could result in the penalising of views currently at odds with prevailing opinion.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who do not value marriage highly.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But "dignity" and "solemnity" have to be defined. The tone found in the introduction to the solemnization of matrimony in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer is a useful guide in this respect. Furthermore, dignity and solemnity should not be expected only of the officiants but should be a mark of the whole ceremony. The future of society is at stake if marriage is trivialized.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public affair, not merely a private arrangement between two individuals. Therefore, the prescribed words required of the parties declaring that they have no impediment to entering marriage must be retained in the ceremony and not relegated to the preliminaries. Moreover, the prescribed words of the solemn promises should be retained within the ceremony in order to maintain an understanding of the seriousness of the lifelong commitment into which the parties are about to be enter. Needless to say, the parties must therefore be present at the ceremony to say them.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The legal wedding ceremony must reflect the seriousness of the commitment that the couple are making to each other, that marriage is not something entered into casually, that the ceremony is not a form of entertainment. A marriage is a public declaration in which society has an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private matter devoid of public significance. Society has an interest. There have historically been very sound reasons for a wedding to have public access. Public access provides protection against forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only appropriate venues should be permitted for weddings. This underlines the seriousness and solemnity of the occasion. A church that meets in a community centre or in a school building, not having its own building, should be allowed to hold weddings in those venues. Regarding other places, there is no definition or test of what is "dignified" and "safe" so this would be open to abuse, It would be simple for an inappropriate venue to make a mockery of marriage.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRT-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 15:02:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

ideally it should be person to person to ensure the veracity of what is being said

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but not only online

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

You need to ensure it is a responsible person officiating

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Surely that would mean there would be no check that the officiant was a responsible person?

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published in places where the applicants are known

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should have that power in order to prevent wrong doing (bigamy, forced marriage)

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes: see above

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely this is vital to ensure that both parties freely consent to the legal requirements and recognise the solemnity of the occasion

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limit on fees. People should not be excluded from marriage because of cost

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The terms 'dignity' and 'solemnity' have not been defined. Subject to this, the nature of the ceremony should reflect the solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an upper age limit

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This suggests that personal attendance of both parties at a public ceremony may not be required.  
We consider it essential for upholding the value and importance of marriage as a PUBLIC declaration of commitment

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could avoid the commitment and solemnity of this significant event.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Religious songs, prayers and readings from holy books should be allowed as these promote solemnity and the significance of the event

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public event and declaration. It is needed to prevent forced marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In order to protect the significance of marriage, it should take place only in an appropriate location.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Outdoors could be outside an appropriate venue, which would be appropriate.

The other suggested locations do not ensure it is an 'open door' public ceremony.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The terms 'safe' and 'dignified' are not defined

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Officiants should not be assessing this

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses and evidence of consent

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees



Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There is no value in more marriages taking place unless these are public declarations of voluntary commitment which will contribute to the upholding of a stable society where children can be nurtured in a secure environment

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRE-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 15:20:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Replying as an independent person

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married at a church authorised for marriages

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It was important to have a wedding that was legally recognised and in accordance with our beliefs

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If weddings are to be made "on demand" and with no time to reflect on the legality it could give rise to people not taking them seriously. A short time of sa 7-14 days is more sensible.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

See earlier answer ( 7-14days)

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would preclude some authorised officials at religious bodied other than Anglican being able to officiate  
It could also mean that members of a Non conformist church not being able to be married by their own minister in their own church

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes BUT should this not be extended to other parts of the Christian faith eg Methodist and Baptist ministers who have been ordained into their denomination ?

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It will be difficult for laws to be created in this areas which cover " public morality" in the current climate with the differing views around regarding this

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes . My earlier reply covers this... see 22

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to the possibility of anyone with no formal backing of an approved organisation applying

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Leaves too much in the format to be decided by the individuals concerned and could make a mockery of the vows taken  
It should be realised that the wedding undertaken is a formal agreement and any inappropriate wording is not allowed

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The matter conducted should be acknowledged as of public interest and should be open to all

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could mean that places which are inappropriate could be used .There should be some restrictions on the type of venue on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors and in good weather could be acceptable if the venue is appropriate

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences



Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRG-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 15:24:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

-

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I understand around half of places of worship registered for weddings do not have a person authorised to conduct the ceremony and therefore rely on civil registrars to register weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I would exclude the clause “contrary to public policy or morality”. This risks those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not convinced that independent officiants are a good idea. In my opinion some so-called ‘ceremonies’ which are currently not legally binding undermine the dignity and value of marriage. If these ‘ceremonies’ are officially endorsed I believe this would devalued the institution of marriage.

Also permitting independent officiants could turn the officiating at wedding ceremonies into a commercial enterprise.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The declaration of prescribed words articulates a strong foundation that is required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be completely meaningless. A wholly personalised wedding ceremony without legally required wording would turn that marriage into an entirely private matter.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe it is more important that a wedding ceremony underlines the seriousness of the marriage commitment rather than simply making the event 'personal' to the couple.

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The current requirement helps make clear that a marriage is not a private affair, a marriage should impact the whole of society. Also, ensuring weddings are open to any member of the public is one way of protecting against abuses such as bigamy or forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think in some cases the current restrictions are sometimes unhelpful since some churches worship in shared buildings and cannot currently hold weddings in these venues.

However, although the consultation states that venues should be 'dignified' and 'safe', this wording is not clearly defined and there is no indication on how these words will be tested. The law needs to ensure that the use of frivolous venues is prohibited.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I believe weddings should be public events.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFR6-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 15:45:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am an Independent Celebrant who is a member of UKSOC and the AOIC

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I would have liked more input into my legally binding wedding but the current restrictions stopped this. I am a person of faith and could not choose a particular venues which was special to me and have my minister officiate. Whilst there were more venues available if I had a civil wedding there were still limits and there were more limits on the content including not being able to have music or readings with faith based content.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I am an Independent Celebrant. I was booked for 20 wedding celebration ceremonies between April and December 2020. 3 have been cancelled and the rest postponed. I have conducted one wedding celebration ceremony at fairly short notice. It was for a couple and two witnesses. The couple felt that the ceremony with the Registrar was so restrictive that they booked me for an outdoor ceremony in some beautiful gardens after the legal ceremony.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples who currently live elsewhere but with family and friends in England find the residential requirements prohibitive. Where one or both of the couple have elderly relatives who can't travel, just wish to be married "at home" or have a specific venue in mind they often end up doing the legal ceremony elsewhere. As so much can be done online now this requirement seems outdated.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems v sensible

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

This should allow time for any original documents to be checked and manageable with leave and travel situations.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This seems very sensible.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. This should continue to be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Notices at Registrars are an outdated concept.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However this year has shown that it may be appropriate to allow couples to apply for this to be extended ( possibly at no additional cost ) due to circumstances outside their control.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Speed will be important if an amended schedule needs to be issued in the case of illness etc.

Consultation Question 12:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Thought needs to be given as to difficulties in relation to the officiant on the day eg an accident. Could an alternative registered officiant be asked to take the ceremony on the day and the registration service informed afterwards?

Please share your views below:

It may be that an officiant has a family or domestic situation arise which is not an emergency as such but would make it preferable for the ceremony to be taken by someone else. There should be provision for a suitable substitute officiant to act.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

There may be a situation where a building has to close temporarily for some reason so it makes sense to have alternative possibilities. The recent crisis has resulted in some churches not holding public worship in the buildings for some time. It may be sensible to allow for an online option either in a streamed service or on a church website.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This should be possible either by the clergy or the registrar. It makes sense for the Registration service infrastructure to be used.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This should be the same requirement as for civil weddings.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If individuals are to register as officiants then some consideration will need to be given as to the definition of a civil wedding. Will they only be authorised for the area covered by their employer?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be consistency of training as well as recognition of the office.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should also be required to ensure training.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a list of such organisations held.

Please share your views below:

No as this would potentially be limiting and give rise to legislation. Criteria may be more helpful.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Define “regularly”. Do they have to show both. Some beliefs do not require corporate gatherings in this way. Will online gatherings be included as there are many more of these following this year?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes unlawful purposes or contrary to public purposes should certainly exclude an organisation. What would be the definition of “morality”?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

When people hold the office they would need to be trained and their name should be put forward.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants are very important in an updated provision.

Many couples today come from mixed backgrounds eg different faiths or of one faith and none, of no faith but related beliefs etc. They may find that no one religious or non religious group feels appropriate to them. It is important to note that many couples who do not want a religious ceremony as currently defined in the law do not define themselves as humanist either. There are couples who wish to have faith elements in a ceremony outside of a full religious ceremony for reason of culture, tradition or because they are unable to marry in church/religious venue eg same sex couples. Independent Celebrants currently conduct many wedding celebration ceremonies and it would help couples if these could be legally recognised.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However they should also have to fulfil universal requirements re training etc and be registered with the Registration service.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be possible for an organisation such as the Wedding Celebrancy Commission, which brings together key training organisations for Independent Celebrants, to carry out the mandatory training and CPD on behalf of the Registration Service.

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I find this a very strange concept. How would a fee be set that “did not elevate the making of profits above the expression of their beliefs”? Would this also apply to the Registration service? How would profit be defined? Would it include payment of salary to the officiant? If this system is to be simple this proposal doesn’t seem to help.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However the concept of “conflict of interest” would need to be defined carefully. Individuals may work for an employer in the industry as well as independently.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don’t understand why the first of these would be a requirement. The second potentially makes sense but I doubt it would be likely to happen.

Re the first. I am an independent celebrant and a person of faith. I am quite capable of leading a non religious ceremony or one for people of other and no faiths if they and I are happy with what is planned. As an independent celebrant I have also led a number of ceremonies which could be defined as religious - particularly for same sex couples or where one of a couple has a strong faith and the other is happy to have certain faith elements included for their partner whilst having a ceremony conducted under the auspices of a religious organisation would feel hypocritical. People are complex and we all have our line of what would be inappropriate for us. I have passed on enquiries about ceremonies where I haven’t felt I was right for it. Surely that is what a simplified, modern process needs - not an unnecessary restriction? This appears to reflect a narrow view of belief which isn’t one I think is prevalent today and is likely to become less so.

I am a lay preacher in my church and if they wished to nominate me as an officiant to undertake religious services for them I can see no reason why that shouldn’t happen. I know of some ministers of religion who have conducted ceremonies for couples at hotels etc after the couple have had the basic ceremony with two witnesses at the registration office. Under the new regime presumably they would be able to do the legal part. No one would be checking the content. If they work part time as a minister why should they not be able to also work part time as an independent celebrant?

I see no sense in this as a rule.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clearer definition would be helpful.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However this should not be unnecessarily restrictive. As an Independent Celebrant I have included elements in a ceremony which a Registrar would not necessarily be happy with.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However it should be possible for the Registration service to also have the power to withdraw authorisation with a straight forward independent complaints system.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be true of other officiants also. The wedding Celebrancy commission may be able to help with CPD.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though I am not sure why that differential needs to be made as it will be a legal ceremony whether it is civil or religious and who would be the arbiter of differentiating between the two? Will a religious service have a minimum amount of religious content so that it can be identifiable as a religious service rather than a civil ceremony.

The second part of this seems unnecessary.

Please share your views below:

I see no reason for this being in the law as no religious content wanted by the couple would stop the marriage being legal. However I think it should be possible to include hymns, "religious" music, Bible readings, prayers, other readings of religious significance and the use of any appropriate religious symbols.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As I have stated above I think the law only needs to talk about whether a ceremony/service is legal or not and need not define religious/civil as it is a false split.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, this should be able to be the choice of the couple.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the wedding is legal and the venue is safe these restrictions make no sense. Plenty of non religious people consider places like Cathedrals to be beautiful venues and many religious people would like to hold ceremony and reception in one place such as a hotel. Both religious and non religious people may wish outdoor or specialist venues that mean something to them. This would replace old restrictions with new unnecessary ones.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However the guidelines should not be unnecessarily restrictive

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no need for approval other than by the officiant and the couple.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This feels like a tax on disability!

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some couples just want to get married with the minimum of fuss and cost and this should be available to them as now.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though I do not think that this should be undertaken by registration officers but by the officiant.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though I do not agree that this is necessary.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though I think that independent celebrants should be authorised to do this

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This feels like a tax on disabled people.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

The potential should be available for other officiants to do this as well.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law discourages couples from getting married as there is not enough flexibility for them to have the wedding that they want. Basic wedding appointments at the Registration office are very limited and with some authorities non-existent. Venue restrictions limit couples from having their wedding where they wish (particularly in their own homes/gardens, public spaces etc such as beaches). The registration of venues also excludes some smaller venues which would not have enough weddings each year from hosting weddings. To have a unique, personal, meaningful ceremony couples often have to have the legal marriage conducted separate to their wedding celebration ceremony and reception. Couples from mixed faith backgrounds, and non-religious but not identifying as humanist are not able to have their legal wedding done as they wish, even in Scotland/N Ireland.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The availability of register office weddings is very restricted, especially for the basic weddings that couples should be entitled to under the law. Even in approved premises couples have to take the time offered which can result in them having to extend or restrict their day. The cost of marrying on approved premises is high and excludes smaller and niche venues who would not hold enough weddings for it to be worthwhile paying to be approved. The costs and other arrangements of having to have a separate legal wedding from a preferred venue are restrictive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If Independent Celebrants became officiants it would release Registration officers to be more available for those not looking for a particularly personalised wedding. The financial benefits to couples of being able to marry anywhere would be considerable - though to many the choice would be the most important thing. Having a wider range of officiants would allow couples to have their chosen ceremony and legal requirements carried out together.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The costs result in higher prices and limited choice for couples as some venues can't afford to register.

The cost of a registrar at approved premises is often high and limited time slots can result in extended days for a couple (eg a couple who were only able to have 11am rather than 3pm had to feed their guests an additional time in the day). Later times can result in a day being unnecessarily restricted in what can be included.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This would allow smaller quirkier venues to host weddings and to go outside if the weather was good without building an unnecessary pagoda that has to be approved.

Broadening the officiants to include independent celebrants (who often only do one ceremony a day) would give couples more choice as well as releasing the pressure on Registrars.

Broadening the possibility of using any venue for religious or civil ceremonies would provide more choice for couples in venue and content.

The business opportunities for the hard hit hospitality industry would be considerable. It is likely to increase the no of couples marrying in the uk - both those that live here and those wishing to marry here.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities could focus on the legal requirements. They would also receive some revenue if a charge was made to register officiants. This would allow them to focus on what they are best at.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It will enable the registration service to focus on the legal aspects of their work.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many couples travel abroad to marry because they have the choice to marry in forests, on the coast, in smaller intimate venues etc. These changes would encourage them to look to do this nearer to home - thus helping the economy.

The residency requirements are particularly difficult for those overseas residents wishing to marry here. Many couples wishing to marry in the UK because they have family here or links of some kind are more likely to do that with a greater choice of venue/officiant and lesser residency restrictions.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Many couples travel abroad to marry because they have the choice to marry in forests, on the coast, in smaller intimate venues etc. These changes would encourage them to look to do this nearer to home - thus helping the economy.

Many couples wishing to marry in the UK because they have family here or links of some kind are more likely to do that with a greater choice of venue/officiant and fewer residency requirements.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

These proposals should lower costs for venues and couples.

They would also potentially expand the wedding industry which has suffered so much this year. Businesses related to the industry would benefit. There would be a cost to Celebrants of registering but this is likely to ensure that they offer good service in order to get clients and cover those costs.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRR-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 16:45:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I conducted one wedding ceremony in July. The family were disappointed to be required to limit the number of guests. They arranged the wedding as soon as possible after lockdown restrictions were reduced as they believed sexual intimacy is for heterosexual, monogamous, loving marriage and were

eager to live together as husband and wife.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This restriction inhibits illegal marriages for visa purposes.

### Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This ruling is redundant.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns are an antiquated system that address a very important concern. Government should legislate to ensure a mechanism for publishing intention to marry and inviting appeals or declarations of illegality. If banns are used, it makes better sense for them to be read in the church where the engaged people live. There is a chance that people in that church will know of a legal reason that the wedding should not take place.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes and yes.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes - this will protect against forced marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some churches (not mine) are reliant on civil registrars.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This reduces bureaucracy for the Church of England and for the officiants.

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Your phrase 'contrary to public policy or morality' is too vague. In the current climate of aggressive censorship, there is a risk that people who hold legal but unpopular views would be excluded.  
Organisations should be banned if they promote illegal activity.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Opening up officiating at weddings like this risks removing limits or restrictions on what constitutes a legal and proper wedding. The result would erode the value of a couple's public commitment to another.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal strips out previously established bar for a legal wedding. It dinishes the seriousness of the public commitment the couple are making to one another.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this may reduce the seriousness of the public commitment the couple are making to one another and so reduce the value of marriage in our society. This would be a mistake as marriage has proved to foster stable society and give better outcomes for child development.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage begins with a public commitment by both parties to one another. A wedding is not a purely private affair. It is not a dressing-up photo opportunity. It is not purely private affair for the two involved. It is a public commitment that requires others to be aware of in order for it to work. Taking away public access will allow forced marriage, bigamy and other kinds of abuse to take place.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples may choose locations that will trivialise the event.

Please share your views below:

None of these. Because of the nature of marriage - the wedding is not a dressing-up photo opportunity. It is a public commitment by both of the couple to one another.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This would be hard to achieve if the law allows any and every location and opens up the role of officiant to anyone. It would become a competitive market in which providers satisfy whims of the couples getting married.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFR1-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 17:44:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I live and conduct weddings in Wales and unfortunately Humanist weddings are not legally recognised here.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Oh yes. I make my couples acutely aware that there marriage is not legally recognised.

No

Please expand on your answer:

My couples usually have to go to a Register Office and have a civil wedding ceremony (albeit it a 'cheap/just sign the paper one). This is discriminatory as they have to have 2 ceremonies where one - a legally recognised humanist ceremony - should be sufficient. Couples want humanist weddings because that is their belief, and they want to put their beliefs and values into their wedding ceremony.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot understand the reason why you have to have a registrar at some religious marriages. This confuses the issues as to whether such religious marriages are civil marriages.

As to paragraphs 5.58-9, civil registrars should be debarred from officiating at humanist marriages, as well as religious ones.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I disagree with this definition. I think the law should just refer to those beliefs that are protected under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights which the UK has a legal duty to.

The proposed definition does not make clear that the main purpose of the organisation must be to advance its belief system. I think the Hodkin definition of a religion is wrong in that it would admit beliefs that should be excluded. Similarly I find the use of the word "secular" confusing. Secular organisations come in all shape and sizes and not all explain "humanity's nature and relationship to the universe".

Please share your views below:

Don't think there should be a definitive list, but if the definition wording was strong and restrictive enough, it would capture the relevant non-religious groups and exclude any other groups.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These qualifications lend themselves to reckless exploitation and commercialisation. It would be too easy to 'get around' these rules, especially amongst groups who just want to make money out of the wedding industry and are not really motivated by their religion.

Indeed this paves the way for individuals who may not meet the required standards of any reputable organisation, or even be sufficiently trained, to join with others in a similar position to create an organisation that may operate with low standards. A higher legal barrier is required to avoid the risk of disreputable commercialisation. The sanctity of marriage is paramount.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If 'independant officiants' are allowed to go ahead, this would introduce private, commercial competitors with the civil registration service. Many commercial celebrants already claim to be able to perform 'humanist weddings', in spite of having received no training whatsoever. This creates risks and disappointment to couples who think they were getting a genuine 'humanist' wedding. Unless extremely tight restrictions are placed on who and who can't officiate at a legal wedding, this could soon turn into a real 'bun fight'. Only officiants who are accredited and nominated by a bona fide experienced organisation, both religious and non-religious organisations such as Humanists UK should be considered for registration by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, but only organisations who have a proven track record of many years should be considered for the nomination of officiants.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists UK celebrants in Northern Ireland and those from the Humanist Society Scotland both operate in this way and it works. They haven't been prevented from charging a reasonable fee, reflecting the time and effort they have put into a wedding ceremony, but it does stop profiteering. However it has to be borne in mind that ceremonies vary greatly across the country in terms of costs,

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is far to 'loose' in its definition. It doesnt consider the significance of the different - civil, religious, and humanist - ceremonies and why people choose the content they wish to have in their ceremonies or their motives. Ceremonies could include religious language or themes, but only if it is being included for secular reasons – for example, cultural or sentimental purposes. Such an approach would keep the ceremony secular.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples choose their humanist wedding location based on their personal criteria: where they first met for instance, at a place that they hold very dear to them, a place with emotional poignancy, even at the family home which is so personal. These ceremonies mean so much to the couples and the location is extremely important, it allows couples to express who they are and what makes them special.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

This one is a no-brainer. Given I've already commented on how a location is chosen according to personal criteria and why the place chosen is so special for the couple, I cannot see why ANY venues should be disallowed, PROVIDED that a strong caveat is applied that wedding venues must be safe and that the dignity of marriage can be maintained. i.e. getting married whilst doing a skydive is perhaps far too risky!

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst an officiant can approve a venue in terms of dignity, it can't be right that an officiant is expected to take on legal responsibilities in respect of the location and 'approve' accordingly.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists UK celebrants are experienced on ensuring that wedding locations are dignified. However it is up to the owners of venues to take the responsibility to ensure their premises are safe. In more open venues, beaches and the like, the couples themselves have to take responsibility for this, although an experienced Celebrant would of course be mindful of safety aspects to be addressed.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There will always be couples who want a low cost, no fuss, wedding and this can be provided by a Register Office.

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Many couples who have had humanist weddings and who have strong humanist beliefs choose not to go to a Register Officer for a legal wedding, given the additional expense that this would entail. Others do go to the Register Office as they want a legally recognised marriage, however much it pains them to have to go through the rigmarole - and cost! - twice. I firmly believe that if the marriage laws were reformed, many more couples would wed. I am also a Funeral Celebrant and I am finding increasingly that many families I visit the 'husband and wife' were in fact not married, only 'partners'. They tell me that they want a humanist funeral as they are not religious and chose not to get married in church as this would be blasphemous, whereas a civil wedding in a Register Office would have no real meaning for them. Consequently they ended up simply 'not bothering'. I have found this in age groups from 20 to 90! So YES, I really believe that more couples will get married if the Government implement the proposals.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have explained this in my answer to Question 85, but can reiterate that couples do not want, and should not be made to, pay twice by having both a humanist and civil ceremony IF they want a legally recognised wedding. It is their choice, and if they have strong values based on humanism, they should be allowed to legally marry based on those beliefs and values.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRW-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 18:45:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Although not directly impacting my family I am aware of a number of Christian couples who are following God's teaching of not having sex before marriage. For them the Covid-19 government prohibition on Marriages (except death bed ones) is a major issue. For couples for whom a marriage ceremony is just a public party to recognise that they are already living together as a couple, a delay is highly inconvenient, but doesn't actually stop them living together. For Christians such a prohibition on Marriage for a prolonged period places great stress on



their relationship as the seek to honour their Lord and Saviour by living by the moral laws as set out in the Bible.

PLEASE CAN I ASK YOU TO RETHINK THE PROHIBITION ON MARRIAGE, and at least allow small weddings to take place, even if it is just a minister, the couple and their immediate family attending.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn undertaking, giving 7 days notice of such a solemn ceremony is a reasonable requirement. After all many couples book the reception venue years ahead!

An online procedure is by its nature very impersonal, and marriage should be take seriously.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In Covid-19 times I can see that "Zoom" interviews" could be preferred.

But forced marriage is a real concern, especially in some communities and safeguards need to be in place.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly with the exact addresses being redacted for privacy reasons.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As the state church, its authority should remain respected across all the entire United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

On the surface this makes sense, but if an isolate, but beautiful building is used for the wedding the size of the Sunday congregation may be small, and thus the bands are ineffectual and publicising the marriage. However, bands for people who have nothing to do with a parish church have very little purpose in the modern age, as the chances are that noone knows them.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Not a bad idea.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That allows them to be present at Weddings at Free Churches, such as Baptist Churches.

My daughter was married at just such a wedding in a free church.

This is particularly an issue for smaller churches which may only conduct one wedding every couple of years and may not have the resources to be registered to conduct weddings in their own right.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds sensible. But smaller independent, newer churches (often made up of largely young marriageable aged younger people) may not be part of any church body and so be in a catch 22 situation, that they cannot conduct weddings because they haven't been about for hundreds of years, and cannot employ a civil registrar for the event.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't fully understand the reference behind this question. But to me a marriage is a solemn undertaking that needs to be backed by organisations such as churches that garner respect and dignity within the community. To my mind some "pressure groups" may not fall into that category. The key for me is that the organisation respect the serious nature of the life long legal contract being entered into.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Sounds a good idea, but who decides what is contrary to public policy?

If say a church teaches, based on scripture, that homosexuality is a sin, and thus declines to conduct same sex weddings, does this make it contrary to public policy, and thus it will be excluded from conducting weddings, and if as you propose civil registrars cannot conduct the legal part of the wedding as part of a service is such a church, then that religious group (which I and my family count ourselves members of) would be unable to conduct weddings of our sons and daughters. (And I have a personal interest with three as yet unmarried adult children who attend such churches).

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Sounds sensible. But who decides what an office is? It can quickly become a very woolly concept. Paid ministers of established churches (say operating for 5+ years) would be a reasonable definition. But would exclude churches with no paid staff, and those more nebulous non-religious organisations. Cast the definition too loosely and I can set up a "church" with 25 random friends and gain a licence to conduct weddings in a matter of weeks. Is this really a good idea, for such a serious legally binding contract as a marriage.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I know for funerals there are such independent officiants, but in that case they don't conduct any legal duties. I fear a free for all, with no checks and balances if a individual chooses to set themselves up as a wedding officiant. Ministers of religion generally have quite a bit of formal training prior to conducting even the religious parts of a wedding. Those licenced to conduct the legal part too, certainly have had a formal training by the CofE or Catholics etc.

I for one wouldn't like to see marriages cheapened with US style wedding chapels which appear to be in the business to make money, rather than guide and council couples seeking perhaps hastily or unwisely to tie the knot, and might be easier to persuade to do fake marriages of convenience, or marry couples where there is a lack of genuine free will on the part of one or both parties.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not keen on such independent officiants as I feel they will "compete" in a free market to push the bounds of what is acceptable in a solemn wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A very slippery slope, once the flood gates are opened there will start to be "outrageous" weddings hitting the national headlines in the press. A conflict of interest in a matter of the heart is hard to nail down in law.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it remains in keeping with the CoFE's 39 articles, and doesn't start to redefine a wedding to be at odds with what it is currently understood to be.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unless it is the CoFE. As there may be a disagreement between the civil authorities and the established church as to what constitutes a fit and proper person. Such an example might be if the CoFE minister adheres to the Bible's teaching on homosexuality, and that is viewed by the civil authorities as at odds with what it takes to be a fit and proper person.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned that the freedom to choose ones own words will result in a lack of seriousness, and the participants and their witnesses and friends not realising the seriousness of the vows that they are making one to another and the legal contract that they are entering into. I would like to see the set works that are currently a legally required part of a wedding be retained.

A marriage is a solemn contract, not just a chance to dress up and have a party.

Devaluing the "service" will just make a joke of the whole thing.

Allowing total freedom to choose your own way to do it will end up in a very shallow and meaningless event that is ultimately unsatisfying and will result in people getting married without every intending it to be for life even from day one.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be solemn legal covenant, that must place restrictions on what is said and done.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Even if one's faith is shaky they should be able to invoke Christian language, so long as it isn't used in a derogatory way. (Such as no cartoons of Mohamed or the Christian equivalent).

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some people may find the registrar's ways of doing things at odds with their religious beliefs. If so they should be able to back up the civil event with a religious one.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple are making vows in front of the whole community. So the whole community should be able to hear them. Yes there may be practical limits on numbers of the general public that can attend an event (such as a Royal Wedding) but the concept of the general public being able to attend is a key part of making vows and establishing stable family units for the benefit of the whole community. Making the venue exclusive and closed somehow to my mind devalues the marriage vows and makes them more akin to the promises made when joining a secret society. But I do understand that for celebrity weddings the participants may well want to control which photographers can be present etc.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The underlying principle as far as I am concerned is that the marriage remains a solemn legally binding contract, to create a family unit to give a stable and secure place for the nurture of children and for the guarantee of equal rights to both parties.

So I would be reluctant to see flippant or inappropriate venues be used for such ceremonies, such as Casinos, betting shops, adult entertainment venues and the like. Or in fact any venue where the event becomes more about the experience than the commitment to one another.

And I know that gets hard to define, as what may be a very serious and central venue to one couple could be simply an entertaining experience to another. So a couple who's met while hot air ballooning and who are both professionals in that field, and so are their friend may find a specific balloon a really meaningful place to conduct a wedding, whereas for most that would be mainly an experience with a wedding tucked in on the side, and the focus of the days is no longer the promises they are making to each other, but the fun experience and the great photo shots.

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I fear the move to "secret weddings". I feel a marriage is a commitment in front of the local community. A "secret wedding" is making it an exclusive party rather than a public commitment. But I do appreciate that already not all venues are equally accessible or have equal space for the community to participate.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

A Religious venue should be protected and only available to those who respect that religion. So there shouldn't be a right in law for people who don't adhere to the moral teaching of the religion to use their building.

If a religious group wishes to allow others to use its facilities that is of course up to it.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees



Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUS-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 18:45:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am writing as an individual and not as part of any organisation.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

In time, I believe the law will denounce religion as unlawful and any one who is a part of religion in any way will be persecuted. I believe this is where these changes are heading.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I married at a Pentecostal Elim church and had a fully trained registrar attend our wedding to lawfully legitimise it. Marrying under the law means my son and I had security within the marriage.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable it was a lawful wedding.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable - my wedding was legally binding.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A as my wedding was legally binding.

#### Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No having a registrar at our wedding did not constrain our wedding vows or the ceremony in any way that we were found to be difficult.

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have no first hand experience of weddings during COVID. My work colleague's sister was hindered from celebrating her wedding because of COVID and according to her preferences for a large family attendance. I heard the girl was devastated. I felt very sorry for her, and her family because so much effort and cost had been put into the wedding party arrangements.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is a long time since I married, and I don't remember whether this was a common rule 21 years ago or not. My experience was of being a fairly close resident in the area I wished to marry in. We must have felt unaffected by this particular law.

My concern - Are there any safeguarding checks that need to take place regarding the couple during the seven days. Are there any identity/national residency checks that take place during this time?

How long does it take to check someone's legitimate identity and national residency?

By placing unfair pressure on a registrar seems inappropriate unless one of the persons wishing to marry are about to die or there is some emergency about housing. The dying person may want a dependent who isn't married to them to live in the house they own. If they weren't legally married they might struggle to inherit the house and remain in it. The same is the case for a dependent child whether adult or minor.

I think not having time before the wedding to give prior notice may increase the pressure placed on the registrar department. I also think it may have far reaching consequences for those trying to have a sham wedding or a forced wedding if enough time isn't given to administer paperwork such as identities and nationality.

#### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree with 'at a later date' It is too late then. If the registration is done online how will the registrar be able to identify both parties. Both parties should present themselves at the office well in advance with photo ID and passports to prove their identity. Both should prove they are of legal consenting age.

A person online can falsely register their intent to marry a person who is under age and cannot consent or who doesn't want the marriage or someone who is under the influence of people forcing them into marriage.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

For me, it isn't about placing a time limit but about ensuring thorough checks are being made to ensure the safety of under age children being forced into marriages, vulnerable women being forced into arranged or sham weddings. Couples marrying through a financial arrangement or marrying for visa reasons. The time needed to sort out a relevant national might be shorter or longer than someone who is seeking asylum, or one party is dying. I think the time limit should be according to how long it takes for each individual case and according to the individual couple's circumstances.

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews by proxy may be illegitimate with persons posing under the identity of another person.

Who would the in- person be? A relative a member of the same community? Would the in-person be trained under the UK law? There would be less need for an in-person interview if the couple showed up to register at a fully lawfully trained registrar's office in person. The fully trained registrar might be better placed to see from the couple's body language what is happening if it is a sham or forced marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think it should be possible for notice to be given outside England and Wales where one of the couple who is a resident in Scotland or in a specified Commonwealth country or territory, or on a naval ship at sea, and both are relevant nationals or exempt from immigration control. It is difficult to serve notice in person when a couple are at sea for 6 months at a time.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is usual for a public notice to take place in a local newspaper if the couple want this, unless this would expose either of the couple to a risk of harm.

I don't think the notice of marriage should be publicly displayed online - If someone is searching for a couple online it might be intrusive and be part of stopping them from marrying.

But on the other hand, having a notice exposed on line might save a woman or a man from being forced into a sham marriage or forced marriage. They might be identified by a friend, relative or member of a community who knows that one of them have gone through a sham marriage before or forced marriage.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the schedule?

This language is too vague language I don't know what I am agreeing to or disagreeing with.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, once again I don't know what the schedule refers to. I don't know what an officiant is. Is it someone fully trained under the UK law to carry out a legal marriage? Is it the registrar? If so, they would be employed by the Registry office anyway and known to them.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No because I don't know who the officiate refers to. I don't know what the schedule refers to.

If it refers to a registrar who is fully trained under the UK Law then that is fine as long as they are fully trained and can provide formal identity.

Please share your views below:

What other circumstances?

Again, what is the officiant. How are they qualified?

If there is a call for an overwhelming number of couples who wish to give notice of their wedding and actually get married i.e. in war times, times of pandemic or crisis then I think that a registrar's assistant fully trained under UK Law should be capable of carrying out the UK Law.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wording of the question presents a divided kingdom, whereas I think that Scotland is part of the United Kingdom. There is the implication that in future a marriage performed in Scotland will not be legally valid in England. The wording creates a situation that might lead to different legal terms and conditions of marriage for different parts of the united kingdom like in the United States.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What are the rules about where banns can be published? Your question should itemise the exact rules you are referring to.

If an Anglican or any church is injured by war damage as they have been in Central Africa and various places it will be necessary to authorise the Anglican wedding to take place in a relevant nearby church, so the wedding may continue.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think banns are commonly and traditionally read in the church where the wedding is to take place but if the church happens to be damaged by war or flood or some other catastrophe then provisional arrangements could be made to publish them in a relevant nearby church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Which clergy? What is the exact role of the clergy you are referring to? Are you referring to the vicar, incumbent, ordained? Yes, if you mean the church vicar as they are the ones marrying the couple, I think clergy should have the power to call for documentary evidence and be required to check such evidence and be required to meet with each of the couple separately before banns are published. Where Clergy are fully trained by law to check the couple aren't in a sham arrangement or forcing marriage on the other they should have a right to call upon documentary evidence.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think both of the couple should be required to attend and make separate declarations that there is no impediment to their marriage before a common licence is granted to authorise an Anglican wedding. Attending separately gives each individual a chance to speak for themselves without the other couple present. It provides an opportunity for a woman to speak up about a forced marriage or sham marriage or any intimidation.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

Who is an Anglican Preliminary? Are they the vicar etc? If so, yes, I believe that Anglican vicar should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales because it is common practice and the tradition of the church. There is a sense of security in this tradition which brings extra relational and faith meaning to a couple. Once a person has been ordained I believe their full role is to be respected as being ordained before God.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In your consultation you use the word officiant - I don't know what or who that is. Is this a new role to replace the Registrar?

It seems your intention is to replace Anglican clergy who perform legal marriages with an independent registrar (officiant).

Ordinands (Anglican clergy) are just as capable of performing legal duties as are independent officiates. If they are trained under the UK Law then why not continue to use them and make life easier?

A person isn't necessarily going to be more honest or respectable just because they are called officiant or Anglican. It is about the individual not the title.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the difference between a registration officer and an officiate? Is it the same role?

Additionally, by the wording of the consultation you appear to want marriage which is only by the law and not religious. If registration officers (officiates) only officiate at civil weddings then they will not be able to attend Pentecostal, Baptist, Methodist weddings or Mosque weddings (I don't know anything about other kinds of weddings and so I can't comment on them). I married in a Pentecostal church and booked the registrar for the service at the church. It went well. It seems a shame to change the way things are done. It separates the human flesh and the spiritual soul as though they are two separate things. Yet to be human is to possess all three. The cost would be more to go to the Registry office than the church. It would take away something of the legitimacy of the church wedding and everything it stands for. I wanted to be married lawfully so I would have rights recognised by the UK Government and be safer. But I know the UK Government doesn't always recognise the kind of laws that are in the bible or spirituality. The church are almost second class to the law. For me as a Christian I believe God fulfils the law in love but people aren't perfect, and so they need the law.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the registration officer needs back up and support. They should have a witness to back up their integrity too. Church vicars have lay ministers to help them conduct weddings as well as lay people from the congregation to support them with readings and music. In the same way a Registration Officer should have other people involved.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that men and women who have followed Holy Orders deserve this role. Especially when they are fully trained to carry out legal duties. I believe it would help the church and parish for the government to provide full training under the law for both vicars and Lay Ministers to marry people.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. For religious organisations, other than the church of England, the relevant governing body should be responsible for booking an appointment with the registrars office for the registrar to come out and marry them legally. A church or mosque wedding should not take place without a registrar. It would not be legal. It should be conducted in the same place as the religious wedding.

2. For non religious organisations my answer would be similar to ensure equality.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the sake of equality under the law, each organisation should be allowed to define itself. Other organisations who do not agree with them should not be forced to accept this definition. The organisation should not be allowed to force its interpretation on another organisation or even on the congregation in its organisation.

Please share your views below:

It would be useful to have a list. It's good to have organisation and order. Only the groups who want to be included on such a list should be included.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be a separate question written for religious organisations and for non religious organisations. I think there are assumptions about the patterns organisations follow. There is the assumption they will both have the same depth of levity regarding marriage and what it means. It doesn't mean the same to both organisations. One believes in God and the other doesn't. Therefore they should have separate questions designed for them.

It is interesting you want to use the word 'body' to describe a group of non religious people when this is usually used by religious people to describe the representation of Christ on earth in the church.

There seems to be an assumption that both organisations follow similar rituals and ceremonies or would want to. The commission is in danger of making one organisation appear pseudo and one valid.

#### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This question seems to suggest that religious organisations and non religious organisations, in time, will not be allowed to hold personal views or practice and free speech speech.

What unlawful purposes are you suggesting these organisations would promote?

Why would this commission even suggest that a religious organisation would promote an unlawful purpose? It clearly has its own agenda.

Public morality is in a constant flux of change. It changes and then laws are modified to suit the change. Morality becomes less and less and laws allow more and more of what was once considered immoral is now moral. Those who once upheld morality are now considered criminals. No one will be allowed to debate. Religious organisations are treated as guests in their own communities; they are no longer the majority.

I agree with the Christian Institute who say: "As public policy is also in a constant state of flux along with morality, aren't the public now in danger of spiralling downhill into an abyss influenced by the media? This proposal sounds reasonable, but there is a danger that it could become a mechanism for penalising moral views that contradict prevailing opinion, which changes over time. Popular culture is increasingly at odds with faithful biblical teaching on marriage, sexual ethics and identity.

"contrary to public policy or morality" is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

The test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

#### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I believe that religious or non religious organisations should have a registrar who is independent and fully trained in the law to oversee the legal aspects of the marriage to ensure the security of the woman and any other vulnerable dependents within the marriage.

#### Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that religious and non religious organisations, apart from those already trained to oversee the religious and lawful side of marriage, should book the registrar to attend a wedding that takes place within their buildings.

#### Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What does it mean to be an independent officiate. Independent of what - Religion philosophy, public policy? Morals?

Could someone with a criminal record officiate at a wedding? Could someone on the sexual offending list officiate?

Could a Muslim officiate at a Christian wedding and vice versa? Could a Buddhist officiate at a Muslim wedding?

Could a person of alternative sexual beliefs attend and officiate at a heterosexual believers wedding even though one might feel afraid of the other or wish to aggravate the other?

Are these independent officiates fully trained under UK law?  
At present, only civil registrars and religious officiants are able to officiate at legally valid marriage ceremonies at the moment. This question seems to pose a vehicle for 'independent officiants' to be able to perform legal



wedding ceremonies. The consultation paper says that the Law Commission is not asking about whether independent officiants should be allowed, just how it might work if they were allowed. However, this is an opportunity to raise concerns about independent officiants.

My answer is no because presently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. It is vocational for many of them. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Independent officiants (known as 'celebrants') can currently conduct weddings that are not legally binding. I have heard these have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en.<sup>1</sup> Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs. I believe such ceremony's if officiates are allowed to perform the contract would lead to undermining the dignity of marriage.

I would not want an officiate who hates my religion, beliefs and is against what I stand for attend my wedding. I would want whoever attended my wedding or that of my family to be a well wisher.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

People within an organisation might end up choosing someone who from their own beliefs to legalise a sham wedding or a forced wedding being deceived as being 'fit and proper' or as part of a conspiracy to deceive.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I still don't understand the difference between an officiant and someone who works at the registry office. What is the difference between their qualifications and what is required of them?

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is important they don't make it a business. But that doesn't stop them from taking a back hander or bribe to officiate at a sham or forced marriage.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would be better if these officiants are paid by the government a set fee rather than being self employed.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would be better for the person to be employed solely by the government as a civil servant. And monitored by government officials.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think if they were employed by the government as registrars they might be better placed to do that.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think they would be better qualified and trained by a central educational system run by the government and monitored by someone like Ofsted.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think they should be employed by the Government as registrars and they should have area managers who do the hiring and disciplinary arrangements.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I prefer them to be employed and managed by the government.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would prefer them to be employed by the Government.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand the question. What time limit? What time limit on the authorisation of officiants. What is meant by the authorisation of officiants? Does it mean their education into being officiants and the time it takes to become qualified. Or does it mean the time limit to how long an officiant can be an officiant? I think if employed by government they could be officiants for life as long as they do a good job.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think an officiant should have to continue to do a degree or masters but I do think they should have three yearly safeguarding training or health and safety at work training etc. There should be courses available to them to improve their approach or learn to be positive about the people they may encounter who have difficulties.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. a. During a wedding ceremony the couples already say they consent to one another in legal binding words.
- 1.b. The couple should be required to express that there is a legal binding impediment if there is one. It is not fair to the other person to keep in secret a prior marriage, a criminal record, poor and abuse behaviour, alcoholism in fact anything that would might cause the couple to have a mental health issue if they found out after they were married.
- 2 Consent should always be given verbally in public at the ceremony, sign language used by the deaf in front of the public, as well as a signature from person in the couple.
3. Having a document to be signed by both the couple to show consent would also help the public and registrar identify the marriage was genuine.
- 4 The marriage should be formed at the point it is signed on a piece of legally binding paper contract. Pre- shown to the registrar before the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Marriage Act 1949 sets out specific language that must be used by the couple to declare that they are free to marry and to express their consent to do so. These short phrases are known as the “prescribed words”. This question proposes removing prescribed words and instead requiring only the expression of consent “whether orally or otherwise”

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government. Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind. The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually. The prescribed words are only a small part of the entire wedding ceremony. The rules are already extremely flexible about what happens in the rest of the ceremony. It is hard to imagine a genuine wedding in which the prescribed words could not be included at some stage. Allowing wholly personalised wedding ceremonies without any legally-required words would send the message that marriage is an entirely private matter. It could the result in the marriage being sham or trivialised as a political act or hate.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think that Anglican, Jewish or Quaker officials/ leaders should be able to impose their own requirements as to the form of the wedding as a matter of their own practice.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I need to know which religious content you are referring to.

Please share your views below:

I think that religious organisations when hearing of a couple who belong to their organisation but deciding to marry in a civil wedding because of an impediment might not want them to use religious words. I think there are reasons why they might not be able to marry in a church. For example, on e part might have committed adultery or a sexual offence.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, people should have rights to have a religious service or blessing after a civil wedding ceremony especially if they are divorced because a previous partner was an abusive partner. or a partner who was unfaithful. They shouldn't be stopped from having a church blessing.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The doors of a wedding have always been open to the public.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed? The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding. The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings “in the air”, suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly. Unofficial weddings have been conducted underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as

fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en.<sup>5</sup> Such settings clearly trivialise marriage. The law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

I think some weddings taking place in beautiful locations will focus on romance rather than the serious nature of a wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is fair to ask people to leave if they are behaving badly at a wedding. People are entitled to their privacy and who they want to share their big day. But if a couple want their wedding on a Sunday it might clash with the usual Sunday Service in a church where people are not well resourced.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For me, it isn't about the building it is about the people, their views and belief. It is also down to the practices of various organisations and what they deem as important.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is up to the person conducting the wedding where he or she or transgender wish to hold the service. They are the ones who have to carry out the service. They should have the right to refuse to conduct a marriage if it pricks their conscience.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Health and safety is a responsibility of officials within any organisation. I still don't know who the officiant refers to - whether this is a new title or just a common meaning given to the person at the head of the organisation. Or a trained by UK Law registrar.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds reasonable. Except that I don't know who the officiant refers to.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I still don't know who the officiant refers to.

Please share your views below:

I think that if a hotel or boat is safe enough to cater for people on holiday it should be safe enough to hold a wedding. Numbers and space and air ventilation should be checked by the person who manages the venue but also by the registrar or celebrant governing the wedding.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The couple might not want a parent to be named if they have been abused by them.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they are both Welsh and English, yes.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No matter how high the level of security is it can never replace human value.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

4. It is considered legal to have a same sex wedding and the couple have no reason to hide their gender, identity.

A religious person has the right to hold the ceremony or not just as the couple have a right to be gay or not. The beliefs of any of them should not be challenged, overlooked, forced upon, intruded upon.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. mistakes should not render a marriage void if the couple want to continue in the marriage . These are admin errors and can be rectified.

2. There should be witnesses unless one or both of the couple are dying and there hasn't been time.

3. It should be signed by everyone included. If the couple want the marriage it should not render if void. They should be interviewed separately.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I feel the same as in my previous answers. If the couple want to continue in the marriage then it should not be void. Any lack should be quickly sorted and rectified but they should be interviewed separately to ensure both are feeling safe.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

People should be married on signing the contract and giving notice and gone through a ceremony with a registrar present and witnesses.

If a person has been co-habiting they can have a pre nupture certificate to make things legal.

Some people feel married by nature etc.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think marriage should be a religious or non religious ceremony with a legal document to make it a marriage. These items bring levity to the situation. That is has been thought about. That it isn't just an afterthought or to claim money. If people live together they can make a will or have a certificate that gives them rights over the house and estate.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

3 years is a long time to be in a marriage without consenting.

If someone is forced into the marriage and can prove they hadn't consented then their marriage should be nullified.

Unfortunately in cases of abuse it may be very difficult to prove it. Listening to the person's story and weighing it up with witness accounts that aren't just here say might help.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Everything should be done legally and through the correct ceremonial channels.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I should imagine it is very difficult to marry if you are in prison, hospital or are housebound and more effort should be done to ensure people are allowed to be together under these circumstances. As long as there is no abuse or manipulation taking place. Both couples could be interviewed where appropriate.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If they are terminal they may not have time to give notice. I think we should be compassionate about terminally ill people.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A registration officer sounds the same as a registrar general. I'm not sure as to the difference as to what comment to write.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand the technicalities of what this means.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know what this involves.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think in an emergency it should be made easier for couples to marry as long as the person marrying them know they are both consenting and are safe.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think there should be a list of what constitutes an emergency. The emergency situation should be discerned thorough an appropriate process.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is straightforward.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I think this should be heavily monitored in case a marriage is forced or a sham wedding takes place.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think I understand this more than the last question. It should be monitored and go through a interview process to ensure one person isn't been kidnapped or forced into marriage.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Haven't a clue - I can't imagine I'd want to hold a wedding on an oil rig or a ship wreck?

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think there has to be some kind of paper train about all of this.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this sounds straightforward. But both of the couple should be interviewed separately to ensure they are not being forced.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

marriage should be taken seriously so people can avoid being hurt and wasting money.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There may be a vicar on board or a lay minster who can perform a religious wedding if they have the correct wedding form. They will need to give some notice to the inland of their intention and have correct contracts communicated back wards and forwards.

I don't think just anyone can marry a couple. They need to have had formal training.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I'm not aware of any.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on how far they are away from port and how long it takes them to get there or send their registry forms to the port. The ship might not carry communication equipment.

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think we should be more helpful to a person who is detained because they need all the help they can get. The same for a housebound person.

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

I think we should be more compassionate in an emergency.

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is usual.

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that charging to ensure a location is safe will make people think carefully they are not trivialising marriage or endangering their guests.

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think weddings should be pre approved. This prevents them from being taken lightly.

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think their time should be paid for.

### Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know enough about this to comment.

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A person detained won't have the money to pay for a registration officer. They should be let off the charge. So should someone who is housebound.

### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.



Please expand on your answer:

I think it is better to be compassionate.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are usually costs to administer paperwork.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think provision would lead to an increase in the number of couples getting married.  
I don't have any evidence.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think that charging people to get married might set the very poor back from getting married. I don't like the idea of officiates earning an hourly rate or getting paid by mileage. I think all people who do this job should be trained centrally and paid centrally by government. but at the same time people who are in charge of conducting marriages should be paid to do a job. Register office weddings have to be booked and it might be difficult to get an appointment.

I think the costs of administration for marriage should be similar where ever people get married. Other costs, meals, clothing, flowers, location, are separate.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRC-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-26 21:50:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Personal

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I don't mind!

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What sort of ambiguous question is this?

If I answer "No", I may be saying that I do not wish to tell you!

Nevertheless, I am in a marriage recognised by law - thanks to the presence of a Registrar!

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No comment!

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No comment!

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My Wife and I were married by an Elim Minister, in a Baptist church (parking was in a Roman Catholic church car park!). The Baptist church was licensed, but, presumably had no suitably qualified person to Officiate ... so we used the local Registrar. Problem averted.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I consider that "contrary to public policy or morality" is very subjective. It risks those with unpopular (but entirely legal) views being excluded from nominating Officiants.

The test should be on objective criteria e.g. "those supporting or promoting illegal activity".

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a very important commitment - I suggest that weddings are NOT overseen by those who have little or no "belief" in the sanctity of marriage / those who might be prepared to officiate at any ceremony (providing the price is right)!

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages are based on solemn promises and commitments - the proposal could easily lead to no-words-said weddings. Without prescribed words (to be spoken), weddings might no longer be seen as a serious undertaking ... possibly just a tick-box exercise!

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As already stated, marriage is a very serious step. It is far more important to reflect the seriousness than the personalisation aspects of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"Open Doors" shows that the wedding is NOT just a private ceremony, but has relevance to society as a whole. It can also help in safeguarding against forced marriages, bigamy etc.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wording lacks detail on what might be considered "dignified" and "safe".

What safeguards will be in place to prevent unsuitable venues being used ... thus undermining the dignity of the occasion?

Weddings "in the air" suggests that a very broad interpretation could be placed on this loose definition!

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRH-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-27 11:23:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples rarely know neighbours and people move areas regularly.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The need to give in-person interview still important to minimise fraud. Essential to see documents as online security not good enough.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days or more. 3 days is too short a period. Cooling off period required. Marriage is a binding legal contract. Easy to get but much harder and costly to get out of

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person gives more security to either party. Body language is vital to observe. If using device camera who knows who else is there, out of shot?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How is riskor harm to be defined?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Especially from covid-19 experiences

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A fee should be charged for changing officiant for admin costs.

The officiant needs to be named to avoid confusion as to who is actually employed to take ceremony. Registration staff should be named as a collective eg [REDACTED] Registration Officer.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Covid-19 has taught us a lot

Please share your views below:

This should not be necessary.

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a legal contract. Couple need to know the seriousness of process. Officiants are the people who have that role.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a religious ceremony is required you couple the religious leader should be the officiant.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If scheduling is passed into law, a second person present would be superfluous

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to be fully trained and act professionally. Contact details must be kept up-to-date. All Registration Officers should be automatically registered with GRO

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to be legally responsible

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants are legally responsible for carrying out a ceremony. Couples need to know who is qualified.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Receiving training and meeting standards should be required to allow an officiant to hold ceremonies to ensure standards are upheld. It is a legal contract.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Maintaining standards. Online assessment of the training would ensure standards are upheld

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be rigorous to uphold standards. Marriage is a legal contract

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Continued assessment is essential. There is a need to remove unfit or improper officiants from authorisation to uphold standards and ensure all ceremonies are legal

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is a need to remove unfit or improper officiants from authorisation to uphold standards and ensure all ceremonies are legal

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

By time-limiting eg 3 years ensures continued professionalism. Training and assessments can be attached to authorisation.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To maintain professionalism.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Making a public declaration to say there is no legal reason that one cannot get married in public, is a step to ensuring genuine contract.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This should already be in place but could be amended

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Security is vital

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ensure professionalism of officiant

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But also the complexity of the ceremony required by couple

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure professionalism



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRX-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-27 13:45:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Personal response

If other, please state::

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems an unnecessary piece of bureaucracy.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Proposal reflects the world as it is now, rather than when the laws around notice period were made.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The period between in-person interview and the marriage date is an opportunity for both people to reflect on whether this is really what they want to do. It may be that, being on the brink of making vows and a legally binding, lifelong commitment, someone may realise that they are in an abusive relationship and that they need to escape. (Please see below for a suggestion on how this could be checked.) They may therefore need some time to make arrangements. I would therefore suggest a period of at least a month, and preferably six weeks. For the vast majority of couples, who are celebrating something joyous, having to give notice earlier will not be any impediment - they will have been preparing for the event for far longer.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible to hold interviews remotely, again reflecting the world as it is now.

However, what is of utmost importance is that each party should be interviewed separately. This could actually be easier remotely.

There should also be a question in this private interview asking about whether the relationship is abusive. This routine enquiry approach has been shown to be effective in other settings, such as in maternity units and in debt advice. Evidence has shown that it is really hard for abused partners to seek help, and the more times the question is gently asked and help offered, the more likely it is that they will be able to escape.

I used to be a debt adviser and manager of a Citizens Advice Bureau, where we saw how asking about domestic violence of everyone reduced the shame and stigma, so that people were sometimes able to disclose.

If a question about whether this relationship is abusive were included in the private interview questions as a matter of routine, it would send a message not only to the individuals being asked, but to society as a whole that domestic abuse is unacceptable.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The intention behind the original act - that people who know the couple can raise an alarm if there's a problem - is still valid. The current system of publishing notices in register offices reaches barely anyone. Therefore to display notices online makes sense.

I would also suggest there could be a system of notifications, similar to that used by the land registry, so if someone was concerned that a friend or relative was being isolated by an abusive partner, they would be alerted to a notice of marriage. It is a similar check to people being notified when someone makes a power of attorney.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely. It is important that both parties are equally involved in making a positive declaration that there is no impediment to the marriage. This would also be an opportunity for a private interview to check whether the relationship is abusive. To have the question asked in the context of a trusted church, for those who are Anglicans, might make it easier for people trapped in an abusive relationship to reach out.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Free consent is vital here. I imagine it's very rare for someone to stop a marriage during or just before the marriage because of an impediment, but even if it pre very occasionally prevents a false or abusive marriage, it would be worth asking the question. Also, the fact that an officiant is there to provide this check sends a general message that the state is concerned that marriages are properly undertaken.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided this officer is trained in recognising potential abuse and are given the resources to offer help.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they are trained in recognising potential abuse and are given the resources to offer help.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There must be strong provisions to ensure that these organisations have policies and procedures in place to ensure they never condone abusive relationships and that they provide officiants with robust training in dealing with abusive relationships effectively.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The principle behind this proposal is sound. However, there might be belief systems that explain humanity's nature and relationship to the universe that discriminate against particular groups, go against the Equalities Act 2010 and promote abuse. Examples of this might be groups that believes homosexuality is wrong, that disabled people should not be allowed to marry and that husbands have a right to sex in marriage, without regard to the wife's consent. It is therefore vital that there are strong rules for which groups can be included and that any group which does not support these laws and principles must not be allowed to carry out weddings.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, there must be provision that the sincerely held belief about marriage does not include, for example, discrimination against particular groups or encouragement to abuse within the marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely. Please see my answers above.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

There is a danger that nominating officiants by office could lead to inappropriate people being able to officiate, without sufficient checks. We have already seen difficulties, for example, where registrars were unwilling to carry out civil partnerships, because they were homophobic. Nominating individuals would lessen this risk.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would provide a check, so that if anyone was concerned about an officiant, they would be able to raise the alarm more easily. As well as providing this list, there should also be a system of raising a complaint against an officiant.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be a way for unscrupulous individuals to be able to carry out weddings that should be unlawful or could be abusive. In order for such individuals to be properly checked, there would need to be a robust system of training, checks, references etc. It's highly unlikely that, in the current financial climate, such a system could be put in place. What is more likely is that a system would be created in name and then not implemented properly, allowing people wishing to exploit sham and coercive marriages a way in.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be done by the state. Self-policing is often ineffective.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

At least these. Mandatory training should include identifying abusive relationships and officiants should be required to prove they truly understand - this means more than the usual online multiple choices used by many agencies e.g. GDPR. There also need to be inspections and checks to ensure that officiants are carrying out their duties properly. It is not enough just to have CPD.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could get truly out of hand. I can imagine a case where people might want to make a living out of being an officiant, and could do so really well. However, much of the wedding industry is exploitative, so it would be a good idea to put a cap on how much they can charge for the ceremony.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I wonder if this is an attempt not to go down the 'I was married by an Elvis impersonator' road. However, if you're going to expand who can officiate at a wedding, why not allow people to express themselves as they wish.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Self-policing is often ineffective. There should be an independent monitoring and complaints system.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should re-register every so often, for example, every 3 years.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It was a sadness that at our civil partnership ceremony, we were unable to have religious music.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a 'just in case' provision, but important none the less. There is a general pull in the proposals here to make it easier to get married privately, with few checks. In the vast majority of cases, this would be fine. However, in order to prevent exploitation, it is important that checks remain in place. Making sure that weddings are public declarations, properly witnessed, sends a message that, as a society, we are concerned that relationships are healthy, respectful, equal and loving.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be accessible for the purpose of weddings - see my answer above about weddings having to be public occasions. However, it would not be reasonable for someone who wants to have a wedding in their garden, always to have that garden 'regularly available to the public for the solemnization of civil marriages' (although one can see the sit com potential).

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming there's a checklist for requirements, it would make sense that the officiant takes responsibility for that in addition to the other legal duties.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safe, yes. Dignified - hard to define and not necessarily what people are after. Why not have a wedding on a bouncy castle or under the sea? I would imagine that someone seeking a sham or coercive marriage would be more likely to put on a show of dignity as a way of intimidation.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible for wedding venues.

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office.

It should be recognised that we are now in the realm of business and profit. Venues make a lot of money from weddings. Should they be approved, they would be in a position to increase profits, so it is reasonable to make a substantial charge to them.

There should be a charge for pre-approval, which should both pay for the cost of the approval process, extra training and resources arising from asking questions about abusive relationships during the preliminaries. (Similar principle to banks paying for debt advice.)

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The naming of parents harks back to marriage being a commercial transaction and is unnecessary. For some people, their parentage is difficult and insisting on this being part of the wedding certificate could detract from the happiness of the occasion. For example, my son is adopted, so my and my partner's names would be on the certificate. However, there is always a sadness around his birth and adoption, which could be a difficult reminder. Also, with blended families, there can be a question about who actually is the parent. Would there be provision for more than 2 parents, for example. Better to leave them out of it altogether.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses and the marriage should be registered.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It might take a long time for someone, overwhelmingly a woman, to realise she can have a marriage nullified, then to get out of an abusive relationship.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To charge someone who is housebound a fee amounts to disability discrimination. This charge could be paid for through charging venues for pre-approval as a wedding venue.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

There are not going to be many such weddings, so the costs would be minute to the state, but could be a burden to people already in a particularly difficult situation.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Cost-recovery if the premises is a home, just going to be used by individuals for a single wedding. Consider waiving the fee for a charitable venue, as in business rates. Allow councils to make some money for commercial venues, which are going to make a profit out of weddings.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Local authorities should be able to make a profit on this type of pre-approval, if the location is a profit-making venture.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Where these discretionary services are provided to a profit-making enterprise, local authorities should be allowed to charge above cost-recovery.

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Where someone is housebound, there should be no fee, as that person does not have a choice of venue. Not to do so could be seen as discriminating against someone with a disability.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think any of the proposals will make a difference to the number of people who get married.

However, one of the important functions of the marriage law is to ensure that marriages are not sham or coercive. There is also an opportunity here to help reduce abusive relationships. It is therefore really important that:

- Everyone wishing to get married has a private interview as part of the preliminaries, where they are asked if the relationship is abusive. If abuse is suspected or declared, the person holding the interview should refer to an appropriate agency.
- There are robust provisions to ensure that officiants and registrars are properly selected and trained, so that they do not carry out sham, coercive or abusive marriages. By expanding the number of people who can officiate, there is a danger that unscrupulous people could have a chance to exploit in a number of ways.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

My main concern is that widening the possibility of venues does not open up a loophole to allow forced marriage behind closed doors. I have in mind a scenario, for example, where a vulnerable young woman is forced into marriage, in a private room with an officiant who specialises in such marriages. It is important that there are sufficient safeguards to prevent this kind of exploitation from happening.

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUQ-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-27 15:20:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not want my name and address published but you could use initials and county details if essential.  
This is to protect my personal data from fraudsters.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand this question.  
Surely marriage can only be recognised by law in this country.  
Is it referring to bigamous ceremonies purporting to be a marriage?  
Could it refer to ceremonies performed overseas?

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Notice is required so that Registrar can check if parties involved are already married or undertaking a "sham" marriage to avoid immigration laws. Also it gives time to hold an interview with the couple face to face.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer but I am confused. If you abolish the 7 day notice how can you fix an interview date (presumably before the marriage takes place). It would be unfair to tell a couple they can't get married with less than 7 days notice.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

14 days

7 days isn't really long enough to perform independent checks

I think this is really a matter for registrars to give an opinion on

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Face to face is much better.

Having used Zoom a lot, it just doesn't convey a person's true behaviour.

Interaction is not as genuine.

I believe there would be an increase in sham marriages if this were to happen.

For religious weddings the bans are read which gives the local community the opportunity to question the validity of the marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think this OK provided their documentation is being fully checked and if possible backed up by a referee resident here

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can foresee problems with this particularly where publishing addresses.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this question is asking but if it is can the marriage be deferred by 12 months I would say yes.

What is meant by "schedule" - it's not apparent?

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registration service should issue an amended schedule whether requested or not

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I'm surprised that the Law Commission is involved in determining what should happen at Anglican weddings. Surely it's a matter for the Church?

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Someone choosing a religious ceremony usually does this because they believe it is important to make their vows before God as well as family and friends.

This should be respected as valid for the State.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am not in favour of allowing officiants to have the levels of authority being proposed.

My concerns are around

1. Oversight and loss of control
2. Lack of clarity on requirements of responsibilities and penalties
3. Added burden (administration and cost)

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why non secular organisations cannot accept a ceremony in a designated Registry Office as at present.  
This goes to the heart of what is meant by marriage and what a couple are consenting to do.  
Society will no longer understand what it means to be "married" and is a devaluation of the institution.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should also be required to make sure the whole service itself i'e. what is said and how it is said , should be dignified .

How and who will define "dignity and solemnity " ?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will be difficult if not impossible if weddings are allowed to take whatever form the couples / officiants choose.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is not independent governance.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly disagree with this proposal.

There is an implication that the ceremony would be individually designed by each couple.



This isn't an Instagram event - it is a serious public commitment (hopefully for a long time) and it is for the benefit of society as a whole.  
In my view, this undermines and undervalues the commitment to marriage.  
Couples really need to understand what they are committing to.  
I don't understand why the couple can't just add a few extra words of their own to the prescribed format.  
Also, it doesn't make sense to be married just by signing a piece of paper.  
This really would devalue marriage altogether in my view.

#### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer.  
I see marriage as important for society possibly even more than for the individual.  
The state should recognise this.  
It is the glue which holds society together. Those that do not recognise this should not be contemplating it - just live together. No one should feel obliged to marry these days.  
Leave marriage for those who take it seriously.  
I regret that today, couples often place more emphasis on the celebration of marriage (as a party for friends and family) with the true nature of the vows which will sustain the marriage into the future.

#### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds very confused - a supposed "half way house" ?  
You cannot just pick the bits of religion which suit you.

Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This helps couples who hold different views about religion e.g. atheist v catholic  
I would rather this than that described in Q 45.

#### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is not just for the couple but again it shows its importance to society as a whole.  
Also, it may help to stop forced or sham marriages.

### Chapter 7: Location

#### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think marriage is "not to be undertaken lightly"  
It undermines the serious nature of a marriage if it can be held anywhere.  
For example, would it be allowed Starbucks or Pizza Express?  
The rules have already been relaxed and this should be sufficient.  
Again, marriage should not be a social media event. It's a serious commitment.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The question is not clear enough. I have assumed "limit" means these venues would not be allowed. Although I have ticked "in private homes" this would also include their gardens.

It is important that the ceremony of marriage is seen to be dignified.  
Receptions could be held anywhere.

It is much better to have authorised venues where control can be exercised for dignity and safety.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is important that the public have regular access to a suitable location for marriage ceremonies. Marriage is a public commitment by a couple otherwise they might just as well just make a promise to each other without any witnesses and even not turn up at all.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This was a very complicated question

Religious weddings sometimes need to take place in hospitals for example.  
I think on the whole, religious weddings should take place in Church with only those organisations able to officiate.

Non religious weddings should not take place in Church.

Churches views should prevail on this issue.  
I do not think the law should be over riding the wishes of any Church.

A religious wedding ceremony is very different to a civil one.  
Tampering with religious weddings should not be undertaken against their wishes.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be identified suitable licensed places for weddings and the officiant should decide if he or she is prepared to officiate at the venue chosen by the couple.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see this as their primary responsibility but it is very important that a wedding location is dignified.. Safety is a matter for those providing the location but I would expect the officiant to point out any H&S concerns (as any member of the public should).

How will " dignity" and "safety" be defined?  
Who would oversee the officiant in this?  
Are they to be held legally responsible if the building burns down?  
Some officiants will be acting in unfamiliar surroundings. Isn't this too much to expect of them?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who will oversee this part of their role?  
Advice is one thing, responsibility is another.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The pre approval process should be obligatory not optional.

Please share your views below:

This highlights the problem with allowing too much freedom in allowing many locations for wedding ceremonies.

It's not just who should be responsible but who pays for it.

There was more sense when there was just one local registry office which could be monitored by the local council.

Local councils do not have the funds to check every possible location for wedding ceremonies and so Health & Safety resides with the owner of the property.

I can't imagine who would take on the responsibility for whether somewhere is dignified enough.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the marriage was officiated by an unauthorised officiant then in my view it is void in any event.

The same applies where the religious governing authority has not given permission.

There is no mention of bigamous marriage.

If either one or both parties do not consent (or have the ability to consent) then the marriage should be void.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is sloppy.

If the marriage is going to be valid anyway, where is the impetus to get it right.

In particular, it is especially important to have witnesses to help to ensure it is not a forced/sham marriage.

This a serious event in a persons life and everyone involved should make sure all the protocols are followed.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What does a "non qualifying ceremony" mean?

If it means the marriage is null and void than the answer is Yes

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm assuming this refers to "sham "marriages.

This is a matter for government policy.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a time limit.

3 years is sensible to allow time for the facts to be established.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a difficult question because time may not be available in some cases.

What about someone involved in a serious accident?

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only in a very serious emergency determined by government.  
I wouldn't want to see this in any other circumstance.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure what this question is about.  
Why would there be any distinction?

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would rather have evidence from a medical source.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This doesn't meet the definition of a location which is dignified for me.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to Q 68

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I don't think marriage at sea anywhere is appropriate.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See earlier answers

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm sorry but if someone wants to get married so urgently, they should wait until the ship docks in the UK.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I would be surprised if there is a genuine demand for this and would query whether it is open to fraud

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am supportive of the above but have reservations regarding the proposals regarding the content of the ceremony.

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would be happy to charge more than cost recovery for this service.

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe the current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married.  
I believe the proposals may lead to an increase in "sham" marriages.

If anything, I believe couples should really assess why they want to be married and have counselling beforehand. Too many couples enter marriage with a view that it is so easy to get divorced that the commitment isn't there at the outset.  
Society also does not seem to take its role in this seriously either.

I cannot provide evidence that marriage breakdown is leading to mental health issues (particularly for children) , financial issues , housing issues and isolation but I know it is happening. My long term married friends have much fewer of these problems. Marriage gives stability not only to couples but to society too.

I do not know why this consultation has been undertaken and at whose request but combined with the revised laws on divorce, I do not understand why marriage is coming under attack when it has positive benefits. Please leave it alone - it's not broke so don't fix it.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF57-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-27 17:45:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Such changes seem to trivialise the importance of marriage, allowing couples to marry on a whim without the due notice period.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

While I agree with the proposed duty in outline, it does not seem to go far enough . Officiants should have a larger responsibility than outlined to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and significance of marriage.

Also, the proposals should define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, which suggests they are easy standards to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe it should be possible for someone to get married without being physically present at their wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is not sufficient.

Couples should not be able to say anything they like and should certainly not be allowed to say nothing at all. This would be a significant departure from the public statements couples currently have to make, which are the basis on which a legal marriage ceremony depends.

This risks undermining the important nature of the wedding ceremony and de-valuing the seriousness of the commitment being made.

My understanding is that there is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are few and couples can add to them in many ways.

It is unreasonable to ask that some specific words are used to show that both people freely consent to the life long commitment they are entering into together.

The proposal that a couple should be able to completely customise their ceremony comes from a distorted view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society at large and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a customised marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal interest, rather than the legally binding life long commitment it currently is.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, there is a need to ensure a serious and solemn nature to the legal parts of any marriage ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such an important event.

The idea that a couple should be able to choose a largely "DIY" wedding ceremony comes from a mistaken view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have a vested interest.

Having researched the matter, I have found that unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The “open doors” requirement helps communicate the public nature of wedding declarations. The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. Forced marriage remains a problem in our society. Removing this requirement encourages the incorrect understanding that marriage is a private matter without any public significance, which is clearly not the case.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage at its heart is a serious and solemn commitment. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

While there are benefits to a wider range of wedding venues being allowed, this should not be allowed to legitimise the use of inappropriate locations for marriage.

Please share your views below:

Having a wedding ceremony “in the air”, would suggest that the safe and dignified test will not be difficult to meet. Would weddings also be allowed in Burger King or KFC?

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be unacceptable, given the serious nature of marriage, for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There seems to be a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals suggest guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and relevant safeguards should be outlined, to avoid marriage ceremonies being un-dignified, unsafe and remembered for all the wrong reasons

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

While guidance from the General Register Office is proposed, the terms are not defined and relevant safeguards should indeed be outlined and enforced, to avoid the serious and solemn nature of marriage ceremonies being "dumbed down" by the location chosen.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5P-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-27 21:45:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a Registry office

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safeguard

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a United Kingdom.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why the restriction?

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The institution of marriage between a man and a woman is a divine provision and blessing for the whole race. The benefit to children having a stable family life with a father and mother is a very significant preservative from juvenile delinquency and trouble with the law. Venues should enhance the couple's life-long commitment in faithfulness towards each other, rather than trivialising the occasion by some vain show.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see ques 48

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The commission has an opportunity, considering the tremendous benefits that marriage can produce especially towards any children resulting from that marriage, to strengthen the marriage bond and to confirm the responsibility to fulfil the contract to the immense benefit of the participants, society (and the exchequer.)

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5V-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-27 22:31:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not married

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Cost of Registrars

Limited service offered by Registrars, time, day and location.

Horrible Register Office, bad decor, can't personalise it

Lack of personalisation of Registrars/Clergy service,

Not knowing who will actually marry you

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Shocking.

Registrars really uncaring, basically told that I would have to pay again to give Notice as wedding postponed by 12 months and 1 week. When I complained, and said postponement was Government guideline, the reply was basically "no Registrar, no wedding".

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Meaningless drivel. Couples don't necessarily live in the same district, or even country.

Outdated assumptions.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Sometimes marriages need to take place quickly.

Provision needs to be made for ill, elderly or other circumstances Brides, Grooms or families

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The service needs to move with the times. Not everyone can take time off work easily.

Provision needs to be made through in person interviews for potentially vulnerable groups

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Of course. This is meant to be a SERVICE to the population, not for the convenience of civil servants

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some level of privacy.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be valid for longer. Given the COVID-19 pandemic is looking likely to continue for much longer to come, we need more flexibility not less.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some way of knowing who is going to be marrying you.

Needs to be more of a relationship between couples and Registrars.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They want to be separate, so it works both ways

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Are you expecting a war? Would make better sense if war was replaced with act or vandalism, weather or terrorism

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Who else needs to know?

Couples are entitled to their privacy

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, need to ensure all parties are not being coerced

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Why? Unless to make sure all parties are entering into the marriage freely.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Needs a level playing field

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as Officiant does not mean exclusively Registrars, but includes trained, professional Civil Celebrants

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Need to reword the question.

Do you mean they can only officiate at Civil weddings, or that only Registrars can perform civil weddings?

If the former, makes no sense. why would you book a place of worship for a wedding, then not use the clergy?

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I propose that any properly trained Celebrant can officiate at a wedding.

Doesn't need to be a registrar at all.

Not sure why 2 were ever needed, only a vicar needed in a church!

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Training! Can't just allow it because of their Office! Disproportionately biased in favour of the CofE

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any which are practising non-tolerance of others

Extremists

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

We live in a multi cultural society, where we should be tolerant of other beliefs.

Organisations or groups which contravene commonly held public beliefs, communal morality or who undermine British Values should not be allowed to thrive.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Should be named individuals. Holders of Office can change too quickly, some may not want to officiate, others may not be suitable.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Public should be able to access the information to help them make the appropriate choice for them.  
A central registrar would allow this.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Choice is key for couples.  
Every Officiant needs to be treated equally

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure how this would be self regulated though.  
How would this work for independent celebrants?

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming that all Officiants/Clergy /Registrars would have to meet the same requirements/have access to training, funding and assessment.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although the term expression of belief is open to interpretation

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent Officiants spend more time building a bespoke ceremony for their clients which takes far longer than a pre-prepared religious service with their names on a post-it note!

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants are as diverse as the clients they serve. Can't be pigeon holed into one category vs another. There is often considerable overlap in their own beliefs and functions.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to have a parity with other Officiants

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The whole idea of opening up weddings is to create diversity and choice, not constrain it.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that professionals are able to successfully self regulate.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As a last resort. I think that less than satisfactory Officiants would naturally die off through bad press and reputation.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are plenty of professional bodies which already exist which could do this. Most independent Celebrants are members of one or another such organisation.

The GRO is looking to control the diversification of Officiants in order to maintain their own self importance.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Brings them in line with the clergy

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How would this be monitored? Creating further obstacles for independent Officiants.

Who would fund it? Unfair to ask self employed independent Officiants whereas religious organisations or local authorities can more easily afford it.

GRO trying to create and maintain control, so how much of this is really about choice?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should all be about choice, reflecting the couple's beliefs

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would work well with mixed faith couples

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Choice! For whatever reasons, couples may want a Civil ceremony but with some religious content. This allows couples to have exactly what THEY want.

Please share your views below:

Whatever the couple wants should be included. Like couples, the content would be very diverse, cannot give specific examples.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the Civil wedding ceremony is acknowledged as the legally binding act, I don't see a problem with a following religious service. This might suit couples who want both, perhaps where one or both cannot marry in a religious service.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People are entitled to privacy.  
Also, sadly, security needs to be considered

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's about time this was sorted out!

Please share your views below:

No limits as long as ceremony is fitting, apt, in keeping with the couple's wishes, and conducted appropriately.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be about the couple's choice, a place that is meaningful to them.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the organisations/religious groups would probably decline requests for weddings from non-members anyway.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There may be some instances when the location is not suitable, something that perhaps the couple have overlooked.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants are not H&S experts. Cannot put legal responsibility for safety on them. That needs to rest with the Event organisers, in the way it would at any other celebrations or gatherings.

Define "dignified" - what one person deems dignified or appropriate may not be another's.

These are both the responsibility of the Event organisers to ensure they are safe, and dignified as they understand the term.

Officiants should have the right to decline to conduct any civil weddings which they have reasonable belief would not be safe or dignified, particularly where this would adversely affect their professional reputation.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Onus should be on the Event organisers

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to be able protect their professional reputation

Please share your views below:

Officiants should be able to visit proposed location or property in advance, preferably before accepting the booking.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding is about the couple, not their parents, so why their names and occupations are included is beyond me.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cultural diversity and identity is massively important.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think most people would prefer the traditional approach, but some may like the convenience of electronic registration.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to move with the times. Mistakes can always be rectified later.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no time limit. If someone was coerced but then prevented from voicing their lack of consent, they need a safety net.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's good to open up weddings to give couples a greater freedom of choice.

We still need to ensure that newer types of weddings, and Officiants carry the same gravitas, legal standing and status.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Need to make it easier and simpler for marriages in extenuating circumstances.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the registrars came to them, and that it could be done with as little delay as possible.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Still keeping the authority with the registrars, though!

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to extend without any further payment.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to extend without any further payment

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Current situation has highlighted the need to be more flexible.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why should there be any discrimination?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, giving the couple more choices

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Should be able to use any vessel appropriate for the ceremony, number of attendees and weather conditions, and substitution of a vessel if necessary.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not all Officiants will want or be able to conduct Ceremonies at sea.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent civil celebrants need to be included in that list

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need to include independent civil celebrants

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not much demand as not advertised as being available. Supply and demand!

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You already charge too much

### Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

You shouldn't be charging at all in these circumstances, especially if there is a change in the law which allows remote consultation.

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's all about money, isn't it?

As mentioned above, onus is on the Event organisers to ensure location is safe.

Dignified is a matter of perspective

### Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registrars are salaried regardless of where the ceremony takes place.

Fees are high enough already.

If the ceremony takes place outside of the local authority area, it needs to be passed over to the relevant local authority.

### Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

You would need to give specific information about this.

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Housebound people are less likely to be in employment.

Prisoners have a nil income

No room for compassion?

### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Be compassionate!

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees would disproportionately adversely affect self employed celebrants

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Currently, fees and Red tape must discourage couples from marrying.

My own experience has been less than pleasant. It's more a money grabbing exercise than a celebration of love.

The changes may help younger couples or people with less income to participate in this area of social interaction and life milestone

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs, availability and accessibility are key factors in keeping groups of people excluded from participating in marriage.

Many want to get married, but in their own way, at a location, date and time of their choosing. They reject the narrow dictations of religious organisations and the current Registrars "service", both of which place too many restrictions to allow them to have the meaningful, personal ceremony they want.

The current requirement for a separate legal marriage on top of a wedding ceremony is financially crippling, not just for the couples but for their guests, too.

Approved venues should have their fees capped, our venue has increased their fee (which is just for the hire of the ceremony room for one hour, plus 2 hours non exclusive use of the gardens for photos) by 50% in one year.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think the proposed changes will dramatically improve everyone's experiences of weddings.

More choice means a more competitive market, particularly in terms of venue and Officiants fees

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I'd like to see some regulation of approved venue fees

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Having more weddings which suit modern couples' requirements means that the wedding industry as a whole will benefit.

The knock on effect on the economy cannot be overestimated, especially given the massive losses sustained in 2020.

Like many other sectors which have had to adapt and become more flexible, so must civil weddings. If there is no change, numbers will continue to fall, marriage will become less relevant, and there is a potential for people to view the registry service as irrelevant, outdated, out of touch and too expensive.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities have had a monopoly for far too long.

They have become complacent about the service they offer, seeing it more as an opportunity to generate revenue rather than providing a service.

It will make local government improve, streamline and actually meet the needs of the people they are meant to be serving.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Potential salary savings, restructuring, more flexible working.

Increase in status, more faith in the service.

Diversification of services offered

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Some of the current legislation and bureaucracy would confuse a QC, never mind ordinary people.

It must really discourage people from trying to create their vision of a perfect wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Less confining, confusing, user-unfriendly bureaucracy will attract more couples from outside England and Wales, boosting local economies, providing jobs, and generating income via VAT , Income tax and other streams

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Hopefully, this will reduce some costs to couples.

I think independent celebrants /Officiants will be the most adversely affected if there are mandatory conditions imposed.

Local authorities will need to find other revenue streams, but they have had the monopoly for so long, a bit of disruption will be good for them.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDN5-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 11:13:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Brethren

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Having officiated at a wedding during COVID-19 I have seen the anxiety caused to the Bride and Groom and parents to make sure they are doing everything to stay within the law. The restriction on numbers leaving some family members and friends feeling excluded.

From the point of view of carrying out the proceedings in a socially distanced manner it all seemed to be a bit remote not being able to surround the couple in the usual way.

I would support the proposal of the couple choosing the marriage location, especially in the home as this would provide for a much simpler occasion and also minimise the risk of infection.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It does seem to be an unnecessary waste of time. It sometimes limits the amount of time a couple can take as honeymoon as their holiday allocation has been taken up.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would certainly be more accommodating especially for those wishing to marry internationally. It would save couples a lot of expense and be more environmentally friendly.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree with the above statement. The inclusion of a clause to interview persons with whom there maybe concerns is in my view essential.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I would agree with the continuation of this.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Covid-19 has proved this is a necessary clause and there are many other legitimate reasons why a couple may need to move the date on.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe the provision for a substitute officiant is important to be able to cover for any exigency

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Same as above

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that only Authorised Persons should be able to carry out this duty otherwise we risk losing the true meaning and purpose of marriage.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the responsibility for nominating the officiants should remain with the organisation whether at local level or higher authority. This would ensure the officiant comes with the consent of the relevant governing authority. This would be for weddings wherever they may take place in the future.

Consultation Question 24:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is important for any organisation.

In my case and for the community I represent we have sincerely held beliefs in marriage as an institution set up by God. The upholding of the sanctity of this relationship both before and after marriage are held to at all cost.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Organisations that promote unlawful or criminal practises should be excluded as this maybe used to further their devious objectives.

Organisations that hold genuinely held Christian beliefs should not be excluded as this is truly a matter of conscience.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The nominated persons should come with the confidence of those who are responsible for selecting them. That would mean that due diligence has been carried out with regards to the suitability of the person they intend to nominate.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no need for open doors as the checking for impediments will have been carried out at the registration stage in the new process.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Wherever the celebration is performed the dignity of the ceremony must be upheld which I would propose could be at the discretion of the officiant. The designated person should have the right to refuse if the selected location is unsuitable for such a dignified occasion.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The provision to marry in private homes is particularly of benefit to the community in which I serve. It would make for a more relaxed atmosphere whilst upholding the dignity of the occasion, proceeding without distraction.

The provision of food/drink could be easily facilitated along with photography in the family setting.

It would have been a good provision in the COVID times we have passed through when places of worship were closed for such matters.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is an important proposal as the officiant would be sensitive to the desires of the couple to be married and would respect and facilitate their wishes wherever possible.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A safe and dignified location are of prime importance along with the safety of the couple and attendees at all times.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would welcome guidance from the GRO providing it's not over burdensome, particularly in regard to marriages in private homes. These should be able to be carried out in a homely manner, whilst upholding the dignity of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Could this not be done beforehand so as to make the whole process simpler.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would welcome this proposal as I find the boxes on the current form very small and at times very difficult to fit in all the information that's submitted.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's essential that the law of the land is upheld. The failure to do so would give way to a major decline in society.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This clause would make provision in cases where a forced marriage has taken place.

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be legally recognised when the couple have gone through with the official act of having done so.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant is bound by the law of the land so therefore should be held accountable as such.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that many of the proposals are good ones generally facilitating more to get married legally which I would welcome. I hold a strong belief that persons wouldn't live together before marriage.  
I have known of instances in the last few months where marriages have had to be put on hold due to Covid restrictions because of not being able to use our registered building. Had there been provision for marriage in a private homes by an authorised person a lot of disappointment could have been avoided.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I know as having performed a ceremony during Covid times the expense to the trust on whose behalf I act was quite considerable in making sure the hall was compliant and all HVAC and water systems were certified fit for use. But more generally the costs of opening a building for a short period of time both financially and environmentally could be reduced if the ceremony could be held in private homes.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

With today's connectivity I see no reason why the times in both the notice period and the need for being in residence could be reduced if not abolished entirely for those from overseas.

Also, the provision for the preliminaries to be done online would reduce costs and the wider impact of unnecessary travel.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

As I think I have already pointed out in previous answers there are many cost savings to be made in simplifying some of the current processes both financially and environmentally,

1, Where an international marriage is proposed costs to business could be reduced if the use of technology could be instigated in filling out preliminaries online and reducing/abolishing the need for a period of residence.

2, Reduction of costs both financially and environmentally to the organisation if ceremonies can be held in private homes.

3, Cost savings for couples where there has been unnecessary travel to fill out forms and other legal duties which could be done online if a secure way of doing so could be maybe found.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF55-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 11:22:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a check against forced marriages

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The minimum period should start from the interview date

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A week necessarily includes working days when offices and services are open, but three days could be e.g. the Easter weekend with no working days.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The safest way to deal with concerns about sham or forced marriages or the capacity of either party to consent, is to require face to face interviews for all.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Where one or other of the parties is living in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Ireland but is getting married in an Anglican wedding in England or Wales, they should still have the option of having banns published. It is a public way of giving notice to one's church of the impending marriage.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, they should continue to be published where either of the parties are resident or on the electoral roll of the parish or equivalent.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

They should have the power to call for documentary evidence, but it should not be a requirement upon them. Likewise, they should have the power to say they need to meet with each couple separately, but it should not be a requirement. For example, if a couple are marrying within a church of which they are members, clergy may know them well enough to be confident that they are not dissembling.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England remains the established church and what happens there has legal consequences.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant could be the Church of England or in Wales clergy solemnising the marriage, or other authorised person who is part of that church. Church weddings should not require a civil registration officer to attend, although some non-Church of England or -in Wales churches may choose to have a civil registration officer present if they do not have an authorised person who is part of the church

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some non-Church of England or -in Wales churches may rely upon having a registration officers attend, if they do not have their own authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Is there any need to change the status quo ante? There should be mechanisms to recognise clergy from other churches e.g. Church of Ireland who would have automatic recognition by the Church of England or in Wales if they were to move to England or Wales.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The relevant governing authority of the organisation needs to be clear. For an independent evangelical church, the relevant governing authority would be the eldership of that church rather than some umbrella body.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Given that independent evangelical churches should be able to nominate officiants, 20 members may be too many. There should not be a specified minimum number, but there should be a church or other governance structure.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

"Contrary to public policy or morality" is a subjective statement. Some would argue that certain sincerely held religious beliefs are contrary to public morality, e.g. some would say it is "immoral" that the Church of England does not recognise same-sex marriages. An express exclusion could be used against such organisations or churches.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This would mirror the situation for the Church of England or in Wales.

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Churches and other religious organisations have strong beliefs about marriage. Civil registrars have a high level of training. Independent officiants need not have such training, and might misrepresent the beliefs of a church or other religious organisation in the ceremony they use.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The "fit and proper" test should come from the religious organisation, and should not require externally imposed beliefs that might lead to an issue of conscience.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would make officiating at wedding vows a commercial concern, and could lead to pushing at the limits of what makes for a legally recognised wedding. It would also not be likely to reduce the costs of a wedding.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- presuming this applies to all celebrants of a marriage, whether clergy or appointed by a religious organisation etc.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should not give any guidance contradicting the sincerely held beliefs of a religious organisation.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The fit and proper person standard should be that from the church or religious etc. organisation. The General Register Office should not be able to impose a standard that contradicts a church's sincerely held religious beliefs.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the caveat that religious organisations could withdraw their nomination, or if it were vested in an office, e.g. being pastor of a church, the person would have to seek nomination on a personal basis to continue being authorised.

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Stick with the prescribed words of the Marriage Act 1949. Couples should still have to declare that there is no impediment to their marriage. Weddings are public occasions. The preliminary interviews could happen privately.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Stick with the prescribed words of the Marriage Act 1949. There is already scope for customisation of marriages apart from the prescribed words. To remove the prescribed words would reduce or remove the public nature of marriage, and imply that marriage is entirely personal between the couple, as opposed to also being within society.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If people come to faith having had a civil ceremony because of their lack of belief, they should still have the option to have a religious service.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors make it clear that the wedding is a public and within society, and also allows for the lodging of any objection.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There are advantages to not having a restriction on buildings. Many churches or religious organisations currently meet in locations not authorised for marriages. Some locations might be inappropriate however e.g. because they trivialise marriage, and it would not be clear how there would be any restriction on inappropriate locations.

Please share your views below:

There should still be an open doors requirement, whatever the venue. Marriages are social, not private. There should still be the ability for someone to attend and object. This would be a guard against sham, forced or bigamous marriages.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above, there should still be an open doors requirement, whatever the venue. Marriages are social, not private. There should still be the ability for someone to attend and object. This would be a guard against sham, forced or bigamous marriages.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a religious organisation does not have the right of ownership of its venue, there would be scope for people whom the religious organisation would refuse to marry (on grounds of sincerely-held religious belief) to have a civil ceremony in exactly the same venue, and pass it off as a religious ceremony. It should be clear that any civil or non-religious belief ceremony in a religious venue is not a religious ceremony. No one should have the right of use of a particular venue against the wishes of the owner.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I note the recent legal case that made it clear that if you give birth to a child, you are the child's mother, and do not have the option to register as the child's father. The parties' parents should be those as identified on a birth or adoption certificate.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage should still require witnesses. It is a public and social event, not a private one.

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an emergency provision in the event of the foreseen impending death of a party to the marriage for the notice period to be shortened, which registrars, clergy or other officiants would have to be able to justify.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Non-consummation should remain a ground for annulment of a marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of a forced marriage, there should be no time limit.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFRY-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 12:39:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Personal

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

-

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The opportunity to share in a wedding ceremony virtually is convenient, avoiding travel, although not the same as being present in person. It would be good to provide this option, as with church services, after the pandemic is past.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It no longer appears relevant

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in-person interview is appropriate in view of the importance of the decision being taken, to avoid trivialising this step. Exceptions could be considered in extenuating circumstances.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No objection

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an online location where notices will be readily available for public viewing, or provision is given for contacts of the couple to be informed

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is appropriate that notices should be given in the region in which the applicant resides and is known.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England is authorised to act in this way and should continue to do so

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Non- Anglican churches conduct weddings and should be allowed to do so with the presence of a registration officer to officiate. Where this has not been possible it may be regretted that a duplicate ceremony is needed after a Christian wedding has taken place.  
It is important that the wedding formalities are supervised to ensure that all legal requirements are satisfied.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Weddings should be seen as having a religious basis. Certain secular bodies are avowedly dismissive of religion and some seek to discredit or eradicate those with whom they disagree.  
Any group seeking to undermine the spiritual significance of the wedding bond, to trivialise it or introduce and legitimise alternative relationships, should be excluded.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An external, neutral registration officer should supervise wedding services where numbers are small. Sincerity cannot be taken as an adequate guide for marriage preparation . There needs to be clear understanding of the commitment required as clearly outlined in the Anglican wedding service.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Religious organisations should continue to be able to nominate officiants, regardless of whether their values diverge from those supported by public policy or from what is regarded as moral.

Religious bodies should be free to uphold their established values and not be required to conform to what majority public opinion may accept. Pressure groups should not be allowed to coerce others to subscribe to their tenets. Intolerance of established Judaeo- Christian values is not right. The structure of our society is weakened by removing the foundational principles on which Western democracy has been built.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The officiant needs to be appropriately trained and to act in accordance with an understanding of the significance of marriage. It is important to be able to determine what undesirable motivation may be present, as in fostering an extreme political belief system intent on destroying established moral and spiritual values, or subscribing to an erroneous view of marriage.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The nature of marriage should be understood. It is more than a liaison of convenience, to ratify friendship, or to afford legal security and inheritance benefits. All these can be obtained legally without being married. There should be a recognised commitment to union of lifelong duration.

Present actions to simplify the process of marriage dissolution fail to uphold the spiritual nature of the marriage bond. Same sex 'marriage' is an attempt at replication of what is seen to be a desirable and commendable state, but which cannot consummate the union and struggles with the essential natural element of procreation.

Free sexual expression has been promoted as natural human activity but outside a committed, exclusive relationship leads to risk of unexpected pregnancy or spread of coronavirus or venereal disease. The Book of Common Prayer upholds marriage as being protective against such risks.

The General Register Office in association with the Church, should ensure that officiants appointed are willing to uphold the principles underlying good marriage.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants would not act under the authority of with the supervision of the Church. Weddings are more than a matter of personal opinion or community agreement. It should not be permitted for any with heterodox or heretical views to formulate ceremonies in place of the present, conventional wedding.

The venue should be a place in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion.

There should be a stated promise of commitment, with recognition of the obligations and benefits of marriage, and the intention that this should be a life-long undertaking.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is for the Church to determine how weddings are conducted and should direct the General Register Office in the guidance which is given

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A separate independent supervisory body should be responsible, formed jointly between the General Register Office and Anglican or other equivalent religious institutions

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A separate independent supervisory body should be responsible, formed jointly between the General Register Office and Anglican or other religious institutions

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A separate independent supervisory body should be responsible, formed jointly between the General Register Office and Anglican or other equivalent religious institutions

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be similar to driving licence time limits

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It detracts from the gravity of the decision to merely require that a signature is given at some point, without a definite time and place, available to the public, at which time opportunity should be given to show that there is no impediment to wedding. Glibness, duplicity or errors of omission should be avoided by adhering to a standardised ceremony. This will be better understood by the couple, their families and friends.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are not a matter of personal construction and should be directed according to established protocol, so as not to be taken on lightly and without adequate preparation.

### Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The essence of marriage demonstrated by these faith groups should be upheld and these ought to form a pattern for all weddings. A genuine wedding cannot be created between a person and an animal, or with oneself. It is not a subjective matter like buying the car of one's choice, to be later exchanged or sold.

### Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Civil ceremonies should have a religious content if they are to convey the full significance of marriage.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many consider that a civil ceremony does not constitute a significant spiritual transaction. It is important for those whose denomination is not authorised to conduct weddings to celebrate with a church wedding. In any case I see no reason to repeal this provision. It could only be with the intention to detract from the importance of the religion in the wedding ceremony.

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are for everyone not a secretive event. Doors should remain open, even if security is necessary.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue should be appropriate and not frivolous or dismissive of the spiritual nature of this commitment. Church buildings provide for a sense of reverence and call for respect and wonder. Ceremonies conducted underwater or in the air cannot convey the same sense of undertaking a major life-changing step, of two joining to become one, with one name and the prospect of being family and forming a foundational unit of society.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5R-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 12:49:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

“Contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed?

Unofficial weddings have been conducted underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a

comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, etc.

Such settings clearly trivialise marriage. The law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFUZ-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 12:54:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage that is recognised by law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please keep marriage important and significant. A seven day minimum feels very short, providing the means for people to enter the country temporarily simply to gain a marriage certificate.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Many people are busy and this is convenient. We are in the 21st century.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Longer, in order to emphasise the importance and seriousness of the legal contract under consideration.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Proceed carefully. Sounds very convenient. Appropriate safeguards are needed. This sounds like the kind of legislation that could need revision over time to ensure the safeguards.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

These sound like exceptional circumstances. The legislation should be framed very carefully to guard against abuse.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public relationship and a legal contract. In a free country I cannot foresee circumstances where it is reasonable for a couple to be secretly married. In the situation where relatives or acquaintances are hostile towards a couple getting married, this requires addressing separately - it is not satisfactory for the couple to get married knowing that there could be violent opposition if the fact were discovered.

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand the question. Does it relate to question 9?

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes with appropriate safeguards so that the couple cannot choose a "sanitised" official officiate and a preferred officiate, and then engineer it so that the preferred officiate gets to oversee the wedding.

Please share your views below:

The "other" circumstances must be listed explicitly in the legislation, otherwise it is elastic and open to abuse.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No strong feelings, except that it sounds like a break-up of the UK

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Other churches to whom one or both of the couple are known should be free to publicise the banns. I would not support a legal requirement that they must do so.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely. Marriage is serious. If a couple want a church wedding, the clergy ideally should check the legitimacy and suitability of the proposed marriage.

I forget whether it was 1, 2 or 3 - the pastor who married us sadly confided to us that the first (say) 3 marriages that he had conducted had all since broken down.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This is reasonable in view of the seriousness of the marriage contract.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious legal contract

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why? Such a move restricts and discriminates against couples who want a church wedding but who require a civil registrar. One of the members of the church to which I belong holds office as a church registrar, but some churches have no such registrar in their congregation and would have difficulty hosting a wedding under this proposal.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is reasonable. Any couple not wanting such a person to officiate should not be having a church wedding.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any couple wanting to be married "by" a religious or non-religious organisation should expect that organisation to apply appropriate checks and balances, including nominating the officiate.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A couple wanting to be married "by" an organisation should be subject to the checks and balances that that organisation applies to marriage.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The proposal sounds reasonable in principle but paves the way to legally discriminate against churches and other Christian organisations in the future. Christians are already being criminalised for holding orthodox biblical views, and the traditional family values that were British values in the 20th century. To avoid draconian measures against sincere and respectful Christian communities (and other faith communities), they must not be excluded from officiating at the weddings of (primarily) the members of their own community.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? Officiants take on a serious business which impacts the future lives of each couple that they marry. An expectation of accountability is appropriate.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal devalues marriage.

Many people today do not value marriage, and do not get married. For my wife and myself, our wedding is one of the most important events of our lives: it provides a foundation for stable family life and a stable society. Please do not discriminate against people of traditional family values with this proposal that opens the way for all kinds of "novel" weddings.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Due diligence

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Due diligence

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult to answer. If officiates do make a business out of it, it should be legally required that the accounting of their business be made public.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle "yes". Safeguards are needed to ensure that a couple wanting to be married find themselves obliged to use a specific officiate who charges a high fee.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, although a legal contest that an officiant has fallen short may be difficult to prove

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some overall guidance is reasonable. It should not be so specific and legally binding as to prohibit the officiant from proceeding in accordance with the beliefs of the organisation that he/she represents.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Emphasis is upon the word "primary". I can see the case for a legal order being issued to an organisation to withdraw authorisation from an officiant, where serious complaints have been raised.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, with appropriate safeguards to ensure that opponents of the organisation that the officiant represents cannot maliciously raise charges against the officiant on the basis of the sincere beliefs and practices of the organisation.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal cheapens and devalues marriage. Marriage must remain a sincere legal contract with non-negotiable obligations on the part of those taking wedding vows.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal cheapens and devalues marriage. Any couple wishing to call themselves "married" must expect to sign up to a minimum standard of obligations that forms the marriage contract. To scale back the current legal obligations is to reduce the value of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The institution of marriage is particularly important and special to faith groups.

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst I would prefer couples to opt for a church wedding rather than a civil wedding, I can understand a case where the couple prefer a civil wedding, but family members would prefer a religious ceremony: a civil wedding followed by a religious service is a reasonable compromise.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Understandably, some couples will prefer a quiet wedding, but marriage is a public legal contract and a secret wedding detracts from this.

The proposal is also dangerous because it will make forced weddings easier, when they can be conducted "behind closed doors".

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal devalues marriage. There is nothing to stop a couple from holding a party to their taste as well as a solemn wedding ceremony, but it will be a separate event, a "wedding reception". To keep marriage meaningful, the wedding itself must remain a solemn, respectful ceremony.

Please share your views below:

In order to maintain and protect the special nature of the marriage contract, wedding venues should be restricted to one of a limited choice which should include registry offices, places of worship, recognised community premises, and probably hotels.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an important public contract. Weddings should not be held secretly or privately.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

"Maybe". As per my answer to previous question 48, there should be a well-defined limited choice of type of wedding venue. It may be appropriate for the officiant to decide whether a legally valid venue is approved for a particular wedding.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a reasonable responsibility. However, it may be hard to define the legal criteria for "safe" and "dignified" in the event of a contest.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would expect such guidance to be high level only, perhaps requiring a satisfactory risk assessment. As per my answer to previous question 48, a legally defined list of types of venue suitable for wedding would cover venues that are generally regarded as "dignified".

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be good if it allows fast-tracking of approval of a location for a particular wedding

Please share your views below:

I like the word "optional".

1. Government or Quango office

2. The venue owners or management should apply to the appropriate authority for pre-approval status, completing a standard application form. The authority granting pre-approval would provide a certificate (if the application is satisfactory) which is probably fixed-term (ie, the pre-approval must be renewed with a fresh application, say, every five years).

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We are in the 21st century

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Item 1 sounds good.

Risk that items 2 and 3 will be exploited to legitimise a wedding that would not otherwise be approved.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious legal contract. There must be some obligation to follow the protocol, otherwise the marriage is void.

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Such a presumption allows a couple to be legally married even if the wedding was not or would not have been legitimate.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious legal contract, so the above are serious offences

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious legal contract. Those with a terminal illness should still be required to undergo appropriate checks and balances.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not without appropriate safeguards to ensure that such provisions open up the way for a wedding that would otherwise be illegitimate. Marriage is a public contract, a wedding should be a public ceremony.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public contract, a wedding should be a public ceremony.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a public contract, a wedding should be a public ceremony.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public contract, a wedding should be a public ceremony. The proposal sounds like a means of bypassing what would otherwise be legal requirements.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ships do not make appropriate wedding venues. Marriage is a public contract, a wedding should be a public ceremony.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be held at public, and publicly accessible, venues

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable. Ships are not appropriate as wedding venues.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fees are reasonable to cover expenses. The proposal acts as a safeguard against extortion.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

This is a nice concession respecting somebody who is terminally ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People like to be treated fairly

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A reasonable set fee provides a safeguard against extortion

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A reasonable set fee provides a safeguard against extortion

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a serious legal contract. If a couple has difficulty in achieving a legal wedding, it is because there are safeguards in place. We need to accept that there will always be exceptional cases where the law appears to be unfair: this is the case in all walks of life.

As somebody who places great value on marriage, I would like as many couples as possible to be legally married for the right reasons: I would like to see more marriages, I would like to see fewer marriage breakdowns. To achieve the latter, the safeguards are likely to hinder the wedding of unsuitable partners.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There should be a means of having a low cost wedding for couples who cannot afford a more lavish ceremony.

Apart from that, couples should recognise that marriage is a serious legal contract, and be ready to pay for the associated costs of the wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF51-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 13:10:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on using a civil registrar to perform the required duties. If this were to change then it would involve couples wanting a church ceremony to have the inconvenience of arranging two events.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I believe that "contrary to public policy or morality" is too subjective as assessment. Popular culture is increasingly at odds with faithful biblical teaching on marriage, sexual ethics and identity.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have concerns about this. At present wedding officiants are either well-trained registrars or religious representatives most likely holding strong beliefs on marriage. This may not be the case if independent officiants are authorised.

Independents can currently officiate at ceremonies that aren't legally binding. Many of these indulge the couple's fantasy wishes and if such ceremonies became legally binding, would detract from the dignity of marriage.

There is also the commercialisation aspect, as there is presently no financial incentive for registrars.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal however doesn't go far enough. The terms "dignity" and "solemnity" need to be defined. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, which suggests they are easy standards to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that it should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the ceremony. Couples saying anything they like or nothing at all would represent a major departure from the current public declarations generally regarded as foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

There is already considerable flexibility in the current legislation and surely requiring certain phrases being used isn't much to ask as indicative of the intent to be a life-long commitment.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, what is at stake is the dignity and solemnity of marriage. It isn't a question of consumer choice which comes from a wrong view of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The “open doors” requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

The requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage, which is still a problem in our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this would open the floodgates to allowing ceremonies to be conducted in inappropriate situations. Again, dignity and solemnity are at stake. However, there are churches that gather in community buildings or schools that can't hold marriage ceremonies at present, so this should be allowed.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that safety and dignity need to be defined.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF56-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 13:38:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

n/a

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage involves the community as well as the couple.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage involves the community as well as the couple and nothing should be done to weaken that central truth.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The longer the better as marriage is a crucial step affecting the well-being or otherwise of the couple and of the wider community.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews remain far better for obvious reasons.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

That makes sense if the circumstances fit, with the Interviewer using his / her judgement.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pretty obvious!

Please share your views below:

That all depends on the circumstances. The law must be upheld, and seen to be upheld, and the dignity of the wedding and subsequent marriage must be preserved.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That depends. If one member of the couple lives in Scotland, N Ireland or Ireland and the couple's wish is to be married in an Anglican church in England or Wales, then it is churlish to change the banns rules for the non-England or Wales resident.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. The community of each member of the couple needs to be given notice.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England remains the Established Church in England, despite the efforts of various authorities to change this situation.

The situation is different for the Church in Wales.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing secular, state officials to officiate in a Christian wedding would be completely wrong.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why might more be needed??

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, continue as is.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gets dodgy quite quickly, because of the current, politician-produced shambles in terms of all sorts of "religious organisations" and "non-religious belief organisations" now present in our country.

Some of these may be "sound" and some not, and are best assessed in the light of our Protestant Christian constitution as expressed in the monarch's Coronation Oath.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A "non-religious belief organisation" is just as much a "religious belief organisation" as any other, for it involves a belief about God (in this case, the absence or irrelevance of God), with the lifestyles of its supporters expected to conform to this belief system.

So this effort to distinguish between religious and non-religious is flawed from the start.

Please share your views below:

Best of luck with this one. Once Almighty God as revealed in the Holy Bible is "chucked out", as has been occurring in so many ways in this country for so long now, then anything goes, and the "anything" is no doubt protected by human rights etc.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A reluctant Yes but many of these questions are now largely missing the point.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes for the exclusion of organisations whose activities are "contrary to public morality", but "public morality" is now ever-changing due to the distancing of the State from our Christian heritage and constitution. So who is to say?

Truly we are now reaping what governments of different political parties have been so foolishly sowing for so long.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Individuals holding suitable office - not just individuals, and not just office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

We now have in our midst organisations that are not in step with our heritage, customs and laws.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- unless each applicant is found to be suitable with a valid reason for wanting to be entrusted with this privileged position.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course, but they alone should not be the arbiters of this. See my answer to Q28.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A reluctant Yes.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A strong Yes. Marriage is under enough threat these days as it is in view of foolish political decisions taken over previous years. Nothing musty be done to weaken the sanctity of marriage.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will become the Wild West without regulation of fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See my previous answers relevant to this point.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation has a say, but also the State.

The problem with these issues is the State is now desperate to treat all organisations the same to avoid being accused of discrimination, when they are very far from being the same. Many are broadly on track with our Christian heritage etc, but some are most clearly not.

The State must retain the right to distinguish so as to give due recognition to our continuing Christian constitution.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A fixed period of years, with review at its end, keeps things in their proper balance.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That depends on the mysterious phrase "continuing professional development", which could be code for State indoctrination as often practised for example by Ofsted.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Needs great care here. This could be the thin end of the wedge in terms of bringing to an end overtly Christian wedding services in churches or chapels.

Please share your views below:

See my answer to Q45 above.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In some cases this option clearly remains appropriate.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is generally a public occasion as all of us are affected to a greater or lesser extent.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity of marriage must be upheld and the location of the ceremony is a key factor in that upholding.

Please share your views below:

See my answer above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my answers above.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The less blurring of the distinctive natures of these occasions the better.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant is the one to decide, as knowing the circumstances yet holding official office.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers.

Please share your views below:

The Registrars' organisation based on experience, feedback, suitability, etc.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Preserves the solemnity and community aspects.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

OK.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if secure ...

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The presence of witnesses remains crucial.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reluctant Yes, though the lack of cohabitation after the ceremony would give cause for suspicion.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they are not legally married, they are not legally married.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This time-limit acts as a safeguard against malicious petitioning.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Upholding the law and the sanctity of marriage on the one hand, while using pastoral common sense and compassion on the other.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep things official though timescales may need to be altered.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Simplicity.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible but not to be overdone.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- unless there is a very good reason.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Better not.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not a good idea.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Who knows?

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A time limit ensure that the schedule will actually be returned.

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Compassion has its place, as long as this is not abused by any party involved.

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it aint broke, don't fix it.

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes.

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Room for discretion should be provided.

### Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Either, depending on the situation.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fair enough.

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The widespread practice of pre-marriage cohabitation does not help.

It is quite right that getting married does involve some effort on the couple's part, and the current state of the relevant laws cannot really be blamed for putting people off making the effort.

Generally speaking I think your proposals would facilitate marriage, as long as the solemnity of the step and occasion are retained.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs are unavoidable, as with all other aspects of our lives. As long as these are fair and reasonable, so be it.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Simplicity is helpful, but is not to be confused with rapidity of process or the dumbing-down of what is involved..

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Nothing to add on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It will always be a balance between the legitimate interests of the couple and their families on the one hand, and those of the non- or religious bodies concerned and the State on the other.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Am not in a position to give an answer on this one.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The added simplicity and straightforwardness are helpful, with the allowance for the use of staff discretion within reason.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Probably all rather complicated, time-consuming and expensive.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See my answer to Q88.



Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Am not qualified to comment on this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Am not qualified to comment on this.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The fees should reflect the actual costs involved by the parties involved, with no organisation or individual able to "make a killing" before, during or after the occasion.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF53-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 14:18:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would immediately affect anyone who is an official registrar for weddings, who belongs to any church. As someone who has been such a registrar, and has acted on behalf of many couples, I am concerned that proposals would eliminate the registration of weddings on church premises if registrars are only allowed to officiate at civil weddings. Where churches do not have their own appointed registrar, how can church weddings take place?

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The phrase “contrary to public policy or morality” indicates a reliance solely on what is acceptable to cultural thinking and behaviour at any given time ( a moveable feast). As our society is now at odds with centuries of traditional views on marriage, sexual ethics and identity, those with unpopular yet legal views on such matters might well be denied the right to nominate officiants. Therefore there should be a concentration on objective criteria.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At present civil registrars and religious officiants carry out this role. Those appointed in churches etc. most likely hold strong convictions about what marriage is; to appoint “independent officiants” would allow those, who do not regard marriage with such seriousness, to officiate. Marriage would then inevitably be less valued. This would only weaken further the fabric of our society.

I understand that independent officiants currently conduct weddings that are not legally binding, in the most bizarre locations. Again the dignity and worth of marriage would be undermined.

Opening up what might well become a competitive market for independent officiants would raise concerns re costs, when the goal of reducing costs was a stated aim the Government gave the Law Commission only in 2018.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is founded on solemn promises, made before witnesses between two people. Under the proposals under consideration, it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding, which is merely certificated by the government. When marriage is treated lightly, then again, we should not be surprised when there is an increase in separation and divorce.

Without the prescribed words and allowing wholly personalised ceremonies in whatever location in whatever the participants decide, the occasion would be treated more casually and simply a private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private affair but one of a central building block of our society and important to society as a whole. Also for weddings to be open to the public is a way of protecting the vulnerable against a forced marriage and to prevent bigamy from taking place.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The law at present specifies that weddings take place only in buildings registered for that purpose. While there are advantages to changing the status quo (many churches worship in shared facilities such as schools or community centres and therefore cannot currently have weddings there), there is the real danger of holding weddings in inappropriate venues that would trivialise marriage. Venues should not detract from the seriousness of the occasion. The lack of objectivity as to what is 'dignified' and 'safe' and how the venue is to be sounded out gives concern as does the Law Commission's seeing no objection to holding weddings "in the air"

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above at 47

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All would rest on the officiant, without the checks of a laid down and specific legal framework.

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFC1-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 14:37:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Baptist Minister [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married legally for 51 years

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No Comment

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anything that detracts for the importance of and demoting of this intended life long agreement is to be discouraged.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Once done the couple should be free to be married

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remotely as a last resort and with adequate reason eg Working in a distant area etc.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, I think the reasons given cover the main circumstances

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Its impractical!!

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes no problem with this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes for proof of eligibility
2. Only on exceptional circumstances where they feel there may be coercion involved

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes I believe they should both attend. This gives to protection for them both

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is from God! Therefore His Church must not be compromised in this.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a significant step for both parties and the seriousness of it needs to be protected

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It protects them from committing hypocrisy if they are not believers - whatever the faith involved.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although I earnestly believe that marriage is given and ordained by God, I do not believe that this view should be forced on others. It comes by revelation. Therefore, my response is yes.

Please share your views below:

Any organization that does not have at root level a recognition of the basic human rights of both male and female should not be allowed to officiate.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely! No privileges for the unlawful should be permitted.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes happy with this if they are all acting under authority.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It adds accountability to a very responsible position

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes of course.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a service and privilege offered to the community and society as a whole and certainly not for profit

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They should be one or the other - no questions about that

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely! No question about that.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only concerning the legal aspects of the ceremony not the religious aspects.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be safeguards in place

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Accountability is essential

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems unnecessary to me especially if adequate training is given. Marriage is marriage and that should not change.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The declaration of no impediment must take place at the time of the marriage ceremony. It makes no sense to me that it should be done prior to this ceremony when there is a time lapse between declaration and ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is far too ambiguous. It detracts for the seriousness and solemnity of marriage and lays it open to be trivialized in a nonsensical way. A set form with very limited options should be required that does not offend any faiths and honours the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too limiting. If for whatever reason a couple want to repeat or make additional vows before God after a civil ceremony they should not be prohibited from doing so.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Despite the tendency to make weddings private affairs they are a public and community occasion as marriage and family are a pillar of civil society. There is enough evidence to show that there is a link between increasing lawlessness and the failure to recognise this fact.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some places are totally inappropriate for such a solemn, serious and dignified ceremony. eg gambling houses, nightclubs, and a number of different sports venues etc.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Those indicated cannot be 'open door' . There needs to be commonsense applied in this viewpoint.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must have public accessibility as it is a public/community activity.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where people worship God and a building is consecrated for that activity it should not be misused for a nonreligious activity.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided adequate training and guidance is given

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it must be clear and unambiguous.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The general registrar

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided it is absolutely secure

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses present as this is the minimum public attendance for a public ceremony.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No issue if both parties willing consent

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There must be safeguards for both parties.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This position gives authority and accountability in a clear way to officiants.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too loose and open to fraud.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Really don't think it will change attitudes to this

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No comment

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5Q-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 15:05:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think this is a good idea.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should have this power.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, both of the couple should be required to attend and make separate declarations that there is no impediment to their marriage in order for a common licence to be granted to authorise an Anglican wedding.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars as they do not have their own authorised person. It would be unfortunate if a civil ceremony separate to the church wedding would be forced upon the couple.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - for religious organisations\* other than the Church of England or the Church in Wales, the relevant governing authority of the organisation should be responsible for nominating officiants to officiate at weddings. But not for non-religious belief organisations to officiate at weddings.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

'contrary to public policy or morality' is too subjective as those who disagree with public policy or morality, though entirely legal, could be excluded from nominating officiants. The test should focus on criteria that are illegal (such as terrorism) or undermining the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Trained officiants or religious representatives should have and are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. It should be kept this way. It has already been seen that many Independent officiants have already made a mockery of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officials have conducted weddings underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention and dressed as comic characters and dresses as hedgehogs etc. This is ridiculous and must not be allowed.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not if they are forced to marry same sex partners as this is not marriage in the eyes of many.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not if they are forced to marry same sex partners as this is not marriage in the eyes of many.

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'prescribed words' are the foundation for the marriage so without them the wedding is meaningless - they might as well just get a certificate from the government. Marriage takes commitment and if no promises are made then call it whatever you want but it is not a marriage! A real marriage is serious; it is not casual nor an entirely private matter. It is a very public matter to be taken seriously.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - the traditional 'prescribed words', the seriousness of public vows, the solemnity and dignity of marriage must be upheld by law. As said, marriage cannot be personalized to the point of mocking public vows. Officiants have already got a very bad track record of agreeing to outlandish wishes. which are highly offensive to people of various faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement is very important as it makes clear that marriage is not private but a public affair and very important to society as a whole. A open wedding for the public can also protect against forced marriage and bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It must be recognized that inappropriate venues must be guarded against. The dignity and solemnity of the ceremony must be maintained - so what safeguards will be put in place and how will it be tested. Venues that have been used, such as underwater, at comic book conventions, ruined leper hospitals on Hallowe'en, hot air balloons are not appropriate!

Please share your views below:

The ceremony must be held in a public venue accessible to the public and the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony must be upheld.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Even civil wedding are a public affair. All weddings are a public affair.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDBR-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 17:14:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I don't belong to an organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

married in a religious ceremony

Other

Please expand on your answer:

married in a religious ceremony. marriage was very important to me.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

married in a religious ceremony. marriage was very important to me.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

question does not apply to me

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

none

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allows people to change their minds and helps to prevent forced marriages

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It provides safeguards mentioned above.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Gives reasonable time for in person interviews.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No in person interviews prevent someone else pretending to be the bride or groom.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should be possible providing interviews are done and one person is resident in England or Wales

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It lowers the risk of stalkers or family members who appose the marriage

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it provides a loophole if the system doesn't work well.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing both parties agree to it.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable in those circumstances.

Please share your views below:

Not unless both parties agree.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple would have no control over where the bans would be published

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes it avoids confusion and errors. For example one person may be unaware that bans are being published as most people expect the bans to be published in their local church and would wish to be present when they are published.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, because it provides safeguards for both parties.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, with the exception of those serving in the armed forces who could be interviewed via skype or zoom in the presence of their commanding officer.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as many churches run pre marriage courses.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Except in the case of non conformist churches that need a registrar to be present.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

More than one is unnecessary.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure but I think it should be ordained priests.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes to question one. No to question two.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Church or registry office organisations only.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Opens the door to polygamy.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yas

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it provides accountability.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provides accountability

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is an essential requirement for the role.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, weddings are not a business, they fill a need.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are not a business they involve two people making a commitment to one another, fees should cover costs including pro rata salaries.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an important ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Following the guidelines of the current laws.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

External monitoring is also advisable.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An important safeguard.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provides safeguards and accountability for officiants.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ongoing professional development is essential.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Deals with the possibility of coercion or abuse.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they follow the guidelines of the wedding ceremony set by law

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Their ceremonies reflect the serious and commitment of the wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's a matter of personal preference.

Please share your views below:

Quotations from Scripture and wording from the current ceremonies in church weddings.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It takes away personal choice. For example when one side of the family has no religious beliefs and would not attend a church wedding and the other family holds the belief that a church wedding is very important.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It prevents anyone from expressing their views about a lawful impediment preventing the marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Prefer current arrangements where weddings usually take place in licensed premises or in agreed premises with a registrar present i.e. non conformist churches, roman catholic churches and venues such as the grounds of castles or stately homes.

Please share your views below:

Yes because marriage is a serious commitment.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings open to the public provide a safeguard against forced or bigamous marriages.

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People who have no religious belief would only want a wedding in a religious building because the building is beautiful. They ought to state their reasons and gain the ministers otherwise ministers would be compelled to marry those of differing beliefs. Ministers would be compelled to marry people against their conscience.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Guidelines are essential.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very important as locations may be totally unsuitable.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would be helpful to new officiants.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it allows freedom of choice particularly when the couple have a location that has sentimental value.

Please share your views below:

National guidelines and the officiants approval.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is the current requirement and works well. It also aids people who are researching their ancestry.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no objection to this proposal.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No objection to this.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The regulations have a purpose and prevent future queries about the weddings validity.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are important as is the signing of the schedule or marriage document.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Failure to comply with these things show a disrespect for marriage. Both parties need to consent to avoid forced marriages.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Parties need to cohabit unless one person is in the armed forces and is on deployment.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Truth is a priority otherwise people will be unable to trust officiants.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not as far as I am aware. If both parties agree there should be no impediment to their marriage. There should be safeguards to ensure that both parties are able to give informed consent.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential to ensure that they are not being coerced.

### Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any reason to abolish it.

### Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see a reason for this.

### Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason for this.

### Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to part one, no to parts three to four.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I national emergency it might be difficult to coordinate the pre marriage and marriage stages

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing all other safeguards are in place.

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Open to fraud and abuse.

### Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the pre requisite stages have been followed and that the officiant is legally registered to conduct marriages

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No it is unnecessary.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should give the name of the officiant otherwise there is no check on the validity of the marriage.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree that weddings should take place in international waters.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the law is passed allowing this.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't think there is except by a very few people

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unnecessary in this age of modern communication.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems fair as the officiant should not have to bear the cost.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

The same fee which might be reduced at the officiant's discretion.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as it might involve travel or other incurring costs.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the venue has been approved before that should suffice.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The registration officer should not have to bear the cost.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The fee should cover costs and be non profit making least people won't be able to afford it.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

No fee would be unfair to others including the registration officer.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's logical and equitable.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I don't think that it will make any significant difference. There are already tax advantages for married couples. It has more to do with social customs and with fewer people having religious beliefs.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law and costs are not a deterrent for couples. What is a problem is the escalating cost of clothing, flowers, cars and of the reception.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I can't see any real benefits to the proposed changes.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5Y-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 17:24:21

### About you

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches do not have their own authorised person to register weddings and rely on civil registrars.

Some do not hold weddings very frequently and others are not very familiar with the legal requirements , usually because the church is small or it doesn't have a minister.

This proposal could stop some churches being able to conduct weddings, as the consultation points out that half of the places of worship registered for weddings, do not have an authorised person to conduct weddings. Many will be churches who can conduct weddings at the moment but won't be able to under these proposals as there is not a person authorised to do this.

Some churches may find themselves falling foul of weddings law as they will have to be responsible for legalities they are not familiar with.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The phrase 'contrary to public policy or morality' is too subjective, in that it may exclude those with unpopular views, but which are entirely legal.

The test should include those that are promoting illegal activities or purposed, e.g. terrorism, that could put forward the violent overthrow of democracy



or may attack the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At the present time, those officiating at weddings are either religious representatives, such as ministers, or highly trained registrars. If independent officiants are allowed, weddings could be conducted by people who do not hold such high values on marriage.

An example of this is where independent officiants (celebrants) are allowed to conduct weddings that are not legally binding, and these have been held in inappropriate places that demean the seriousness and dignity of marriage.

Some might choose a celebrant because they have been refused the religious ceremony that they wished. An example of this may be a couple choosing to marry in a religious setting, where their belief or behaviour do not reflect the religion in which they have chosen to be married. An independent officiant could conduct a wedding, which may misrepresent the religious group's position on certain issues.

At the moment, there is no financial incentive to officiate a wedding. Allowing independent officiants, could well make this a business matter. There may be those who would be more flexible with the ceremony for financial gain, thus reducing the seriousness of the occasion. This could also defeat the object of the Government trying to reduce the cost of wedding venues, which was one of the stated aims given to the Law Commission in 2018.

This could also reduce the seriousness of the marriage ceremony as a recent study revealed that most independent celebrants give little restriction to couples as to what they can include in the ceremony. It is not clear what training or safeguards there will be to prevent this.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words are so important as they form a basis for the declarations that are required for a marriage. If these words are not included, the wedding ceremony have as much or as little meaning as the couple or officiant decides. This would make legal marriage just a Government certificate.

Solemn promises are made to each other by the couple in the wedding ceremony, but under these proposals, it would make it possible to have a legally represented wedding with no words being said by the couple or any promises made of any kind.

Commitment in marriage is so important and must be taken really seriously. With no prescribed words it could just be a casual arrangement.

The prescribed words are not the full ceremony, couples are already able to include other things in the rest of the ceremony. It should be possible to find some point in the wedding to include the prescribed words.

To allow wedding ceremonies to take place with no legally required words would create the impression that marriage is a completely private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is so important and serious and should be shown in the ceremony and this should be demonstrated far more than personalising it to the couple.

Ceremonies that are non-legally binding are already very personalised.

If it becomes a requirement that officiants have to ensure that they do not undermine the dignity and seriousness of marriage, this will not stop couples finding an officiant who will allow them to carry out their most outlandish wishes.

If couples are allowed to customise their own weddings, it would be possible for them to mix elements from different religions, which would be offensive to people of those faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open Doors is really important as it emphasises that marriage is not a private affair but is important to society as a whole.

A wedding held privately gives out the impression that it is only of interest to the couple, which is not true.

Enabling weddings to be open to the public, is a way of protecting against forced marriage or bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am really concerned that unsuitable venues could be used that may diminish the dignity of the occasion.

The venues for the wedding should not distract from the solemnity and dignity of the marriage ceremony. How will venues that are 'dignified' and 'safe' be ensured?

Unofficial weddings have been conducted in inappropriate places, such as underwater, in sadomasochism dungeons, etc. Also, couples have been dressed up as cartoon/fictional characters. These settings do diminish the dignity of the wedding ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5G-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 17:48:38

### About you

What is your name?

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For something as important as marriage I think that both parties to the marriage should be present to give their consent. No system is fool-proof, but, if parties do not actually have to be present, surely there is more room for coercion if one of the parties is not actually willing. If both parties have to be present, at least the minister has a chance of observing if one party is in any way unwilling.

The C. of E. ceremony has both consent and vows. One implies an agreement to proceed and the other defines the specifics of the agreement. Both are needed. The Law Commission suggestions above seem to me too loose and ill-defined.

As a Christian I believe that marriage is a God-given institution and that it should express God's intention for marriage. It cannot be any shape that someone likes to suit their own taste. Marriage has a public aspect as well as a private one.

There are plenty of ways for a couple to include what they want in their marriage arrangements, but the core of it, the consent and vows, should not be negotiable.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see answer to 42.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But at what point does a civil ceremony with religious content actually become a religious ceremony?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I say in the answer to 42, marriage in Christian understanding has a public-facing aspect as well as a private one.

I grant that a closed-door policy is some insurance against a party who is bent on preventing someone else's marriage. But this is surely so rare that it is not worth jeopardising the fact that marriage has a public-facing aspect.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is too wide.

If marriage is intended to be a lifelong commitment, involving not only consent but agreement to specific principles (see 42), this needs to be done in a setting that is conducive to the thoughtful and serious exchange of these vows.

By all means go sky-diving or scuba-diving after the ceremony, but I don't think it is realistic to say that anywhere and everywhere is a suitable setting for the serious business of a marriage ceremony.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Please see remarks above re airborne weddings.

I think the private homes option also works against the public aspect of marriage. The couple have a new status in the community.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please see on 48

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst I think that the venue should be safe and dignified, I think this proposal puts too much onto the officiant.

If he/she agrees to a wedding on a boat and the boat capsizes, is the officiant then responsible for any casualties?

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5W-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 17:57:43

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicable

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a widow. I knew my marriage would be recognised by law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None experienced.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Does not seem to me to be an important issue.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

On-Line is now an acceptable method of notification theses days.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Suggest 21 days to give time to make arrangements and for people to respond.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

A personal interview would be best to reduce the possibility of misinformation being recorded.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

If this arrangement is in place at present and is working well I think it should continue.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I consider that there should be exposure to a notice unless there is a known danger to the couple that is acceptable to the public.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems sensible.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will ensure that that an officiant is firmly in place for the wedding.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Wise precaution.

Please share your views below:

If the pre-arranged person cannot attend for some reason at the substitute should be allowed to officiate.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I consider the banns should authorise a wedding in the country the banns are given.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consider it to be unnecessary.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consider that banns should be published in the church where the wedding is to take place and only if required by the couple elsewhere.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I consider he should have the power to check evidence and use it if clergy requires. I also consider it important that clergy meet with the couple and be able to give advice and counsel were required. I personally experienced this and think it can be valuable.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I consider that this is important that there be no impediment to the couple being legally married.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I consider that this can be optional provided the main commitment to each other is legally stated.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Due to the seriousness of the commitment I consider these factors should be put in place or retained.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As many churches do not have an authorised person it is essential that the registrar be authorised to to conduct weddings at any places of worship. .

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think they should have the training as other official registrars, not just because of their office

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the relevant training or explanations are given to undertake the task in a responsible manner.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I consider that the official registrar should attend unless the other safeguards indicated in earlier sections are retained. regarding the solemnisation of the wedding are retained.

Please share your views below:

Only in respect of those organisations that will retain the set wording for the solemnisation of the marriage by the couple in making a commitment to each other.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A sincerely held belief can mean anything. I do not consider the wording public policy or morality to be adequate

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I do not consider the words public policy or morality to be adequate.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I think the officers should be named in each case.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sure a record should be maintained by the General Register Office of nominated Officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiant are likely in some cases to place a low value on marriage and its importance in the community. In this way the respect of a marriage couples could be downgraded.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes every time.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be necessary in each case.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A objective mainly of financial gain would be unwise.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A conflict of interest is usually prohibited in things of this nature e.g. charities.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems a sensible requirement.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I absolutely agree. I stable marriage is the strength of a community.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem necessary as part of the training for the responsibility.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone in such a post should be able the demonstrate that they are acting wisely and flinging their responsibilities.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where such action becomes necessary, provided full and adequate training was given in the first place.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again where such action becomes necessary, provided full and adequate training was given in the first place.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot think that there should be a fixed time limit.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most professions need to be updated from time to time in new regulations and practices.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a covenant between two people and becomes the bedrock of the security felt by the two people to enable them to express themselves personally to each other in love and confidence. Set words enable which are legally recognised are clearly understood by the people as entering into the commitment. Any words would not achieve that and would be much easier to treat the marriage casually like any agreement in life.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Although this seems a nice gesture, I do not consider that a commitment wording personified to the couple will indicate the seriousness of the commitment that is being made. A serious fixed wording once being publicly declared can actually make the couple feel embraced and drawn to each other.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided we are referring to all other preliminaries other than the wording of the essential commitment quick should be a set wording.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why not.

Please share your views below:

I have no objection for biblical wording to be allowed where it is fitting to introduce this.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

It is unnecessary.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open Door policy confirms that a wedding is a part of the public community's interest. It might be a warning to a possible rival for the lady. It can also be a safeguard against a forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The law needs to be clarified. Many churches like mine do not have a resident appointed registrar and need to engage the council registrar. This needs to be recognised in law.

I have a concern that if weddings were allowed to be held anywhere that unsuitable venues could be used which would obliterate the seriousness of the commitment being made. The law in my opinion should ensure that dignity and discipline in the ceremonies are preserved.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Not in the air as a person would find it difficult to keep their attention on what was taking place.

Not in a private home which is not at the same time open to the public and subject to the Open Doors' policy.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the Open Door policy should apply here too.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I consider the belief or non-belief of the couple is what is important in building the marriage. It can be any suitable building that can reflect the seriousness of the occasion.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming the officiant has received training so he can make a sound judgement. However, there should still be a procedure for considering any poor judgement by the officiant.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes absolutely. Marriage between two people is a serious personal affair even though it has public implications, therefore the ceremony should be carried out in a safe and dignified manner.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

After this consultation has been considered it should be carefully considered and suitable advice and guidelines drawn up to help those taking judgements.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A pre-approval may well be a good idea to pick-up knowledge of what is required under the regulations.

Please share your views below:

Someone pointed by the Registrar General's Department.  
It should work by group interviews.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These are those who are present at the ceremony.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. The language is not what is important, but the meaning it carries is.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That is the way things are going and such arrangements are normally satisfactory.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be the case otherwise the requirement would be deemed unnecessary.

No

Please expand on your answer:

On the country I think a failure to register a marriage and/or sign the register should make the marriage void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These factors are vital to a wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The requirements would constitute a marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Living together does not have meant the couple have made a commitment. They may only be wanting some comfort or convenience.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unnecessary.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously wrong and should be made an offence.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I think it is up to the couple concerned even if the marriage has serious limitations.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A good idea to think through the implications with somebody else who could be wise and helpful.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is needed to make things simpler without losing the benefits promoted earlier, that is fine.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a marriage is a covenant between two people it cannot be for a limited duration. It has to be called something else. An agreement or a contract or a specially formulated name.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a marriage is a covenant between two people it cannot be for a limited duration. It has to be called something else. An agreement or a contract or a specially formulated name.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Points 1 and 2 possible but not agree with point 3 or 4 without further thought.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the emergency exists over all couples it should tend to all couples.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The above remarks should apply.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Those locations could be made suitable.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Suitable accommodation should be able to be made suitable for a wedding if a registrar can be made available.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes on a cruise ship if suitable accommodation could be made available and a registrar is able to be present.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that suitable accommodation and arrangements could be made on a cruise ship but the name on a officiant should be stated as a witness.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided suitable training of independent officials is given and that the earlier stated safeguards are in place an a suitable place is granted for the ceremony to take place.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly. It is just as necessary on board ship as anywhere else.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise the regulations are pointless if they cannot be enforced.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware that there is a demand as I no of no person in the Royal Navy.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

hit be better to give an extended time limit or have to give specific reasons for the delay.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That would appear to be a reasonable way to assess the charge.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason for a different fee being made.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would be convenient for some people.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a fair method od accessing the charge.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing would appear to be fairer.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think people would consider this necessary.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should continue where such a service is provided.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see not reason to have a different fee if the operating is the same.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to charge a reduced rate.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The recovery of costs is acceptable.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think the proposals are flexible enough to encourage couples to get married.  
However I have no evidence to submit.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If people wish to get married they can usually find the money from others or their own savings. I have no evidence to submit.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The availability of a Registry Office Wedding is helpful. My mother took advantage of that under the old system The other choices give a nice selection and couples would find interest in making a decision on their wedding arrangements.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

In my view the changes will not make for difficulties but would overall be an advantage as it makes things clearer. There will be more to learn by those involved but that would soon be done and we will be able to reap the benefits.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I am not in a suitable position to make calculated comments on the proposals from experience but I hope my comments above will be useful.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am not engaged in the local . I have been employed in the NHS. It would be difficult for me to answer you to any fine degree.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Some fees will be already in place but many more added bu these should be easily enough a look an the finance people will be able to assess some fees where required.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A few like to do this, but I do not see why that need present a difficulty.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A few like to do this, but I do not see why that need present a difficulty.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience in that fie.ld so cannot comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience in that fie.ld so cannot comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience in that fie.ld so cannot comment.  
Thank you.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5H-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 18:12:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Personal data including any email address to be treated as confidential.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This does not go far enough the officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure the content and tone of the legal ceremony to show the seriousness of the marriage. What does dignity and solemnity mean? Currently the ceremonies have to be dignified but this consultation gives no assurance about standards which include ceremonies in the air as dignified?? Don't think so.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It MUST not be possible for the nonsense of someone to get married without being present at the ceremony as simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

The current situation requires couples to publicly declare their marriage not say nothing or anything they like. The current situation is flexible and reflects the seriousness of the LIFE CHANGING commitment in society and the couple are therefore aware of what they are undertaking rather than not clear. This is a commitment and both people should freely consent to the this serious ceremony.

Marriage ceremonies are not pick and mix because the union needs to be understood by themselves, the society and the law, so the current situation is public not a private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious and solemn and the current ceremony reflects this this is not about what an individual couple wants but is a public declaration and the ceremony and venue need to reflect this.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors required was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against FORCED marriages which could still be FORCED and the marriage is not a private matter without public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious ceremony and venues need to reflect this. Your questions below show a misunderstanding of this altogether, in that it is not dignified nor serious nor appropriate to such an important life changing ceremony but trivial. It is not a question of what couples want the venue needs to reflect the seriousness of the marriage ceremony.

Please share your views below:

See ABOVE.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There is no way of this being tested in these proposals and therefore is nonsense.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There are no terms on how safeguards would be proposed on the location and the content of the ceremony so this question is unclear.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSV-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 19:42:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proposed duty, but do not agree that it is sufficient. Officiants should have a wider scope of responsibility that ensures the marriage contains sufficient content & thrust of the legal ceremony. Thereby upholding the dignity & solemnity of marriage.

Definition needs to be provided by the proposals of the meaning of dignity & solemnity. The Consultation viewing ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, gives the impression they are easy standards to meet.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing marriage with just a signature & without the need for attendance, makes the process of marriage a mockery. If anyone is intentional on submitting themselves to another through the ceremony of marriage, the least they can do is turn up for it.

Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a dynamic shift from the much praised public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

This just makes the whole ideal of marriage a non-committal event, and bringing into question, why the actual need for it if it so watered down?

Moreover, the Wedding event as it stands has more than enough flexibility. Couples can already add to them if they wish

It should be a no-brainer that certain vows are an essential part of a marriage ceremony. After all how else are they to distinguish the act of coming together in such a profound way to show their commitment to each other?

To try & suggest these and other such vital elements of marriage should be cast aside so that couples are able to completely personalise their ceremony perhaps comes from those that don't fully understand marriage, or maybe those that wish to undermine its solemnity for whatever reason. Whichever they should be thwarted with much vigour.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To allow such a proposal to proceed takes away vital elements that give seriousness and solemnity to marriage.

The main aspects of a marriage ceremony should be maintained to retain its dignity & authority. Therefore meddling with it should not be allowed, as anything that detracts from the seriousness of the occasion could somehow diffuse the real solemn intent of the marriage.

Also bear in mind the Wedding is a venue where a serious declaration is made in public.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are public declarations. Apart from the historical requirement to prevent forced marriages, which is still an issue. It would signify the false narrative that marriages are private affairs.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again consider the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

There maybe some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed for legitimate reasons, but this should not be used to legitimise inappropriate settings.

Consider again the seriousness of the wedding ceremony, and when one does, it seems ludicrous to allow it to be held in anything but a serious venue.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would leave much ambiguity as to what is considered safe & dignified. What one person may call dignified could be quite the opposite to another ones view. Therefore testing for safety & dignity leaves a lot of open-ended questions.

I would urge stringent requirements to be the standard for the serious act of marriage.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFS9-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 19:43:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicabel

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

My friend's wedding was completely cancelled and when she did get married, only a very few could attend. The husband to be had 8 brothers, which ones should he have chosen to attend with the spouses and children? Such choices are heart breaking.

Two others are trying to get married, but the uncertainty of restrictions is making it very difficult for them to enjoy the planning of what should be, a joyous time. Instead, it is all what if this and what if that.

Congratulations on making the beautiful God given right to be married in a Church with one's family around them, and friends, so difficult. And yet children can be stuck in a small classroom, 30 at a time. But the sanctity of marriage is considered below that of a school lesson.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

It should be longer so that the marriage will be occurring for the correct reasons and not forced in any way.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be done in person in order to ensure that sham and or forced marriages do not occur

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person.

For some this might be because they hold weddings infrequently and are therefore less familiar with the legal requirements. For others it is felt impractical to have an authorised person, perhaps because the church is small or does not have a minister.

One of the Law Commission's goals is that "the ceremony that is meaningful to the couple should be recognised by law". This can happen at the moment in churches that do not have an authorised person, by having a civil registrar to register the marriage. If this is not possible, many couples who attend such churches are likely to require a civil ceremony separate to their church wedding.

The consultation points out that around half of places of worship registered for weddings do not have a person authorised to conduct weddings. Many of these will be churches, who are able to conduct weddings at the moment but will not be able to under the proposals unless they appoint an authorised person.

This idea poses a danger of some churches falling foul of weddings law, as they are required to take responsibility for unfamiliar legalities in order to hold a religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Contrary to public policy or morality is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

The test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage.

Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage. Independent officiants (known as 'celebrants') can currently conduct weddings that are not legally binding. These have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en. Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs. Such ceremonies could be legally binding if independent officiants were allowed, undermining the dignity of marriage.

One reason couples might choose independent officiants is because they have been refused the religious ceremony of their choice. This might happen where a couple's beliefs or behaviour are not consistent with the religion they choose for the wedding. Having an independent officiant conduct a pseudo-religious ceremony could misrepresent the religious group's position on, for example, same-sex marriage. Or there might be beliefs from more than one religion brought into a single ceremony, giving a distorted picture of all the faiths involved. Currently there is no financial incentive to officiate a wedding. Opening up a market for independent officiants makes wedding vows a commercial concern. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries. This also risks defeating the goal of reducing costs of wedding venues, which was one of the stated aims the Government gave the Law Commission in 2018. A recent study found that most independent celebrants would give couples very little restriction in what they could include in their ceremony – even where the content "clashed with their personal religion, beliefs or values". This sets the bar extremely low for the seriousness of the wedding, and it is unclear what safeguards or training would be in place.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will allow fees to be rocketed sky high and weddings are expensive as it is. If a limit is not placed, then this could be abused.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the dignity and solemnity of marriage is not upheld, then it becomes something that can be mocked, entered into without proper thought and responsibility. This is a life long decision, and not one that should be treated with anything other than this.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a monitoring system by which the organisation that nominated them is accountable to. Otherwise, this opens a door to bias and abuse of the system, whereby genuine concerns are not dealt with in an independent and non-biased manner.

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government. Marriage is founded

on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind. The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually. The prescribed words are only a small part of the entire wedding ceremony. The rules are already extremely flexible about what happens in the rest of the ceremony. It is hard to imagine a genuine wedding in which the prescribed words could not be included at some stage. Allowing wholly personalised wedding ceremonies without any legally-required words would send the message that marriage is an entirely private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

Non-legally binding ceremonies can already be as personalised as people want. These have included ceremonies underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en. Another involved a couple dressed as hedgehogs. Personalisation will damage the dignity of the wedding ceremony. A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective. It will not prevent couples finding an officiant to agree to even the most outlandish wishes. The possibility of fully-tailored wedding ceremonies will encourage commercialisation. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries. If people can entirely customise their own weddings, they might blend together different elements from faith ceremonies inappropriately, effectively making a parody of those ceremonies. This could be highly offensive to people of those faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You should state that the 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole. The opposite is also important; weddings which are not publicly accessible make a statement that the marriage is private and of interest only to the couple. This couldn't be further from the truth. Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used. How will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed? The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', but lacks precision on what this means or how it will be tested. Venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding. The Law Commission has made it clear it sees no objection to weddings "in the air", suggesting that the terms 'dignified' and 'safe' could be interpreted very broadly. Unofficial weddings have been conducted underwater, in a sadomasochism dungeon, at a comic book convention with a couple dressed as fictional characters, and at a ruined leper hospital on Hallowe'en. Such settings clearly trivialise marriage. The law must not allow such venues to host legally binding ceremonies.



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If one is religious, then a religious place of worship is in line with the faith of both the venue and the people getting married. However, if one does not have a faith and just likes the look of a church, this disrespects the faith behind that church or other faith place and thus non-religious belief weddings should not be allowed to occur there. If one is religious and wishes to get married outside of a church, but a faith 'vicar' is taking the religious ceremony, I feel that is acceptable.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Clear guidelines need to be given otherwise one officiant could vary from another and money might determine whether an officiant will allow a certain venue is appropriate.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be more than guidelines.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are expensive enough and if a person is housebound, this would only increase stress.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are expensive enough.

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be less on the grounds of compassion

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5S-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 20:33:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] humanist wedding celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I've been legally married for 27 years but I've been a humanist wedding celebrant for 2.5 years, so the wedding ceremonies I deliver are not legally recognised. My couples have to do the legal part separately.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I always explain to couples at the time of booking that humanist wedding ceremonies are not legally recognised in England and Wales and that they would need to have a registrar do the paperwork after a short ceremony for the marriage to be recognised in law.

No

Please expand on your answer:

All my couples choose to have a humanist ceremony because they want a personalised ceremony that reflects them as a couple and their non religious values, and they want it delivered by someone with the same world view and beliefs as them. So far, all of them have elected to have a civil ceremony too, just to have the paperwork legally recognised. They would all have preferred to have their humanist ceremony legally recognised so that everything is done within the same ceremony, but their choice for a humanist ceremony wins through on the day because of the nature of the humanist ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Two of my couples have experienced difficulties with registrars who have tried to dissuade them from having a humanist ceremony, saying they were not allowed to have a humanist ceremony before the legal ceremony. This resulted in my couples being deeply stressed and I had to phone the registrar in question at [REDACTED] Register Office and speak to the Head Registrar to clear up the confusion - at which point the registrar contacted the bride to apologise.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The fact that humanist ceremonies are not legally recognised presents barriers to my couples having a wedding ceremony that is meaningful to them, conducted by a celebrant who shares their beliefs, in a place that is meaningful to them, with others to witness their public commitments to each other. It is discriminatory. The civil ceremony does not enable the couple to express their values or beliefs in a ceremony that reflects their views, their story or their love.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have had 26 wedding ceremonies postponed this year, and have only carried out 6 ceremonies due to the Covid restrictions.

The fact that humanist ceremonies are not legally recognised has presented more problems than civil or religious ceremonies as it means that couples have had to arrange two ceremonies.

The weddings that I have carried out this year have been intimate, highly personalised and story-led, with lots of focus on humanist values, and this has been incredibly important to the couples and their families.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, sounds fair, particularly for those who live far away from the place of their wedding ceremony.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, I think this is a good idea to ensure that their officiant is a registered celebrant/officiant and that the quality of the ceremony is of a sufficiently high and appropriate standard.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, for emergencies/ill health, this is a good idea.

Please share your views below:

If the couple reschedule to a date that the original officiant is unable to attend, then the paperwork should be allowed to be amended - within a specified notice period.

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If notifications for civil or humanist ceremonies are placed online, then those for couples getting married in an Anglican church should follow suit. All weddings should follow the same protocols.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should follow the same protocols whether they are religious or non religious.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The celebrant should be able to do this on his/her own without the requirement of another officiant/registrar

Consultation Question 20:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanist celebrants and religious ministers should be able to cover the signing of the register at a wedding ceremony without the requirement of a registration officer.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree. I don't see why a registration officer should need to officiate as well as the celebrant or minister.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree. Recognition of marriages should not be based exclusively on the buildings in which they take place as this discriminates against couples with humanist beliefs. Humanists UK do not have places of worship as humanists do not worship. We have a world view that is not religious.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists do not teach others how to live their lives and so therefore the sole purpose of our weddings is not to advance our belief system. It is to marry two individuals who share the same belief system. Humanists are free thinkers who share non religious values and morals that come from within.

I think that the beliefs of any belief organisation (or religion of any religious organisation) should attain a certain level of seriousness, cohesion and importance; be worthy of respect in a democratic society, be compatible with human dignity; and not conflict with the fundamental rights of others – as per wider case law around human rights, and the Equality Act 2010.

Please share your views below:

Organisations and individuals registered to officiate marriages should have a belief in humans, human rights, ethics, morals, they should stand up for equality, be part of an organisation that shares a belief system and they should also agree that marriage and family are an important aspect of living in our communities.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree that the belief organisation needs to meet regularly at a specific location.

I think it would be better if there was a local route, and a national route, which is controlled and headed up by a national belief organisation - to ensure the required standards of training, delivery, ongoing CPD and professionalism. This would also enable couples to choose a celebrant who shares their beliefs to conduct their marriage ceremony in any location that is meaningful to them - whether this is outdoors or indoors.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I believe that in theory this would work, but "unlawful" or "contrary to public policy or morality" could have differing views as policies change. (I believe that officiants should abide by common decency laws taking into consideration kindness, equality and human rights - for example humanists have always supported the changes in law to allow same sex weddings and abortions.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe this would work as it would open up a market for an influx of independent celebrants who would be in competition with civil ceremony registrars, and many of these celebrants may not adhere to the same quality or level of dignity or professionalism as someone from an established belief system that has been training wedding celebrants for decades. This would also put pressure on the GRO to ascertain training and delivery standards of independent celebrants and ensure the ongoing quality and professionalism of independent ceremonies, officiated by individuals that do not belong to a dedicated world view / belief system.

Humanist celebrants undergo intensive training by Humanists UK to a high standard, are engaged in a collective, supportive community, we pay fees to Humanists UK on a quarterly basis, we are regularly peer reviewed to ensure consistent quality and we receive regular training, support and ongoing continued professional development.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the fee for a ceremony written and delivered by a humanist celebrant should reflect the time spent on the planning, script writing and delivery, as well as the skill level of the celebrant. The fee should also be reflective of the geographical location of the wedding. The cost of living is higher in some areas than others.

The wedding ceremonies that I write and deliver typically take around 4 days of work per wedding. This is due to the extensive planning process, the bespoke nature of the script written for each and every couple, the time spent on administration and continued communication with the couple in between the booking and the wedding date, marketing of services in order to secure bookings, the cost of printing, hardware and software and the time spent at the ceremony venue on the day. We have paid fees for our training, and we are only accepted onto the training course in the first place if we can demonstrate we have the right skills, experience and beliefs to write and deliver weddings, communicate well and be respectful of all humanist values, our professional obligations and the expectation of our couples.

Humanist celebrants are not paid by Humanists UK. Unlike religious ministers or council officiants, humanist celebrants operate independently within the framework and community of Humanists UK, and we represent Humanists UK. We also pay a levy to Humanists UK which affords the running of our training and support system. Many of us have marketing costs in addition, as well as clothing, computer, phone, ongoing CPD and transport costs. Many of our weddings are in places that are miles away from our homes.

Therefore, whilst we work within a fee structure that is proposed by Humanists UK, our fees are reflective of all of the above.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree that independent celebrants should be given legal recognition of their wedding ceremonies. If they are given legal recognition, this route would potentially leave couples open to exploitation.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that officiants should be aligned to one organisation only, for clarity.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the GRO should give guidance as to what elements should be covered, and in terms of the legal process and requirement, but not so much the content. Humanist wedding ceremonies, whilst adhering to the humanist belief system, are entirely bespoke and different for each couple. That's why they are so personal and memorable.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that in the case of humanist celebrants, this is right because I know that our network of celebrants is continually monitored for quality, however if the GRO is concerned about any individual celebrant, it should be able to take up the matter with Humanists UK.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think this would be incredibly difficult to police as there would be an influx of independent celebrants who, after initial training, may not be aligned to any particular belief group. It would potentially also open up the market for many other training organisations that may not train celebrants to the required quality.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that once training has commenced, that an officiant should be authorised within a certain time frame.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that couples who are religious or follow a belief system should be officiated by a member of their belief organisation. I do not think that civil ceremonies should be allowed to have religious content as this muddies the water. The State should not deliver any ceremony that is aligned to any belief system. It should be entirely impartial, and religion and belief free. The civil ceremony conducted by a registrar (government or council official) should focus on the legal aspect of the marriage. Also, if a registrar or independent celebrant was allowed to lead prayers in an official capacity in a marriage ceremony and this celebrant did not follow the belief system, it would not be right or fair to religious organisations.

Civil ceremonies (and if independents are given legal recognition) should definitely be religion free, belief free and entirely secular.

Humanist marriage ceremonies should remain free of religion unless a song or reading by someone other than the officiant (that does not require an act of worship) is included for sentimental reasons and is not focused on the religious aspect (for example the inclusion of the song "Halo" [REDACTED], or another lyric in a popular song that is not religious, or "Jerusalem" by someone who was heavily involved in the WI.)

Also humanists use candles for some rituals - which civil ceremonies disallow - and we can refer to other traditional wedding rituals such as glass smashing or flower ceremonies - which have a history in religious culture, but are carried out in humanist ceremonies with secular or humanist intention and words.

I also believe that couples of the same or different faiths, cultures or beliefs should be allowed to marry in a religious ceremony of their choice if they want religious content, or choose a humanist ceremony if they agree with humanist beliefs and values or a civil ceremony that does not include religion if they want an entirely religion and belief free marriage ceremony.

Please share your views below:

There should not be any religious content in civil weddings.

Part of the reasons why couples choose weddings officiated by someone with the same belief as them is that the officiant and the location of their ceremony holds meaning.

For those with religious belief, it is often the place of worship, the way of life of their officiant and even the ceremonial dress, traditional props and other ideals that hold great meaning. The ceremony would not hold the same value if religious content was delivered in a secular setting by an officiant that has not been trained by, accredited by or who is not part of that religious organisation on a professional level.

There should not be humanist content in a civil marriage ceremony that is not conducted by an accredited Humanists UK officiant.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are slightly different to funerals in terms of public access. A humanist wedding is often quite a personal affair, and the guests have been invited to witness something very unique and bespoke - personal promises and a love story. It is unlikely that the couple would relish anyone other than those on their guest list to witness this personal information. Also, if a ceremony was taking place in the home or garden of the couple, this would not be appropriate.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The location of a wedding ceremony should be meaningful the couple - wherever that may be - as long as it is safe for all concerned, appropriate to their story and their belief, and dignified - and answers to previous questions should be taken into consideration regarding religious , humanist and civil weddings to curb the springing up of a multitude of commercially focussed celebrants.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unless in the case of deconsecrated religious buildings.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

As a humanist celebrant, I always arrange to meet the couple at the venue of their choosing if I do not know it, or if it is not a public building that I can access information about online. If I felt that the proposed location was inappropriate or unsafe, I would express my concerns and would not agree to being an officiant if I was at all concerned.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be a venue fee for this pre approval process.

Please share your views below:

Venues could work to a GRO guideline document.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Date - yes

Location - yes

Names and occupations of parents - could be added but not required by law.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Provision should be given if the demand is there.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that venues should work to guidelines, but not have to pay a fee. Some venues (eg beach locations, hillsides, village halls, the couple's own home, garden or hired Air BNB venue should not have to submit a report if the officiant and the couple adhere to guidelines for safety issued by the GRO.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - this would make sense as registrars are able to carry out a higher number of ceremonies if they are held at register offices. If registrars are required to officiate a wedding outside of the register office, this takes extra time in terms of travel and set up, as well as having to reduce the number of civil ceremonies able to take place in one day.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:



Yes - the current law definitely prohibits humanist marriage.

Some of my couples have given up on their original wishes for a humanist ceremony because they cannot afford two sets of fees, or because they want the legal part carried out on the same day as the humanist ceremony and costs are prohibitive for a registrar to come out to the venue as well as their humanist celebrant.

The number of humanist wedding ceremonies in Scotland has increased dramatically since they became legally recognised. And this is now also happening across Northern Ireland.

With the 2020 situation of postponements due to Covid 19, legalising humanist marriage ceremonies early in 2021 would enable many more wedding ceremonies to take place at many different venues. This would reduce the backlog and additional costs for the GRO and local councils, and it would hugely benefit couples, humanist celebrants, venues and all other suppliers to the wedding industry throughout England and Wales. Of course, it would also have an impact on those with humanist belief, that their values, ethics and morals were not discriminated against, as it would seem under the current law.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. The current availability of a basic legal civil ceremony is very low, especially now, because of the Covid-19 backlog and advance bookings into 2022.
2. The cost of marrying on approved premises is detrimental to couples having to pay excess fees to the venues, and also to venues having to provide covered structures in their gardens in order to hold civil ceremonies legally.
4. The cost of marrying in locations not authorised for weddings is detrimental as the couple has to go through two ceremonies - one legal, and one not legally recognised.
5. The necessity of having a separate legal wedding is discriminatory to those with humanist beliefs. And the cost of two ceremonies is unfair.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The joy of having humanist ceremonies approved for legal recognition would be enormous. It would have a huge impact on couples in terms of being able to have the wedding ceremony that reflects them as a couple. It would increase the number of weddings in the UK across the board - opening up the economy and becoming in line with Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, which already have legal recognition.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think there will always be couples who opt for civil ceremonies at local authority run register offices.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSP-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-28 20:42:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposed change would certainly affect the church that i attend, and many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings because churches do not have their own authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

That contrary to public policy or morality is certainly too subjective an assessment. I see the risk that those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating an officiant.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree and therefore say no., because of today those wedding officiants are  
1/ highly strained registrars or 2/ religious reps who are likely to have strong held beliefs on marriage. To let independent officiants would certainly open  
up those who I may not place a high value on marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would say no. Marriage is a solemn commitment and must be taken seriously and not having the prescribed words it can make it easier to treat the ceremony in a casual way.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To this question I would say no, a legal wedding ceremony does reflect the seriousness of the couple's commitment making it more personalised to the couple.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private affair, but is important to society as a whole and open doors requirement is certainly a valuable part of the wedding day celebrations.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I fear that there is no clear safeguards that will prevent unsuitable venues being used therefore how will the dignity of these ceremonies be guaranteed.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSE-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 00:34:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a legally binding covenant of marriage, recognized by Law and acceptable before God.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could have an adverse effect on meaningful Independent Church weddings, where I believe the lawful contract of a marriage should be officiated and made legal for the couple involved. To ignore this could result in unnecessary complications about holding a preferred wedding in a Church. Many churches will not be able to appoint an authorized person, which may then rule them out of holding weddings in the future.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Caution must be applied to ensure the legal proceedings are indeed lawfully upheld at all times and in all situations.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Due to the rise of secularism and contrary to public policy or morality, this would clearly result in a too subjective an assessment. There could be a risk of those with unpopular, but entirely legal views, being excluded from nominating officiants. The test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity and undermine the democratic rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is surely important to maintain very high standards for officiants and not allow the opportunity to introduce much lesser standards that may belittle or pour contempt on the sanctity of marriage or its legality in society at large. Strongly held views on marriage should remain an essential element for any future officiant, as it appears to be at the moment. A wedding should be an enjoyable, but serious and lawful occasion for the couple and their family and friends, but allowing independent officiants, could open the door to all kinds of no-traditional events, even the macabre. I believe there have already been a number of non-legally binding weddings, with celebrants officiating, where this has been the case!

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless there is suitable training, achieving a set competence level and assessment interview, as often takes place in many of the applications for membership of professional Institutes.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to suitable 'formal' training, achieving a set competence level and assessment by interview.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too subjective, is it meant to open the door for 'anything goes' provided the legal aspects are included. The values and beliefs of the officiant should never be subject to the accusation of a 'conflict of interest.' Any variation in the fees charged would clearly need to be reasonable in light of the couples requirements and agreed by a legal binding contract for services provided.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided this focuses only on the lawful wedding duties of the officiants and no other part of any wedding.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided there is substantial and sufficient evidence to justify such a decision.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is standard practice in most professional fields of employment today.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A couples commitment to marriage should be public and include both declarations and solemn promises that are meaningful and binding in law. A casual or more private approach to these declarations or wordings could cause marriages to get off to a weak start and result in many sham marriages that last even less time than do at present. There are the expenses of a wedding, the parents, children and wider families to also consider here as a well.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is my belief that all weddings should be serious in form and ceremony, but an enjoyable affair for the couple and family involved. The personalization of the wedding can quite simply happen around the core legal aspects. We should not allow weddings to become an 'anything goes' or undignified affair! We must also be aware of profiteering by the more unscrupulous officiants, who are too willing to agree to anything at a price!

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that this should be condoned, it is tantamount to having it both ways in my humble opinion.

Please share your views below:

I can think of no justifiable examples.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A citizen desiring to legally marry a foreign partner in this country, then hold a religious service elsewhere, should always be permitted, especially for the sake of the family on both sides and somewhat due to modern life patterns.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should always be a public 'open doors' affair. It is not a private ceremony, unless the couple have good reason to make it so. There is a danger of someone being 'forced' into marriage or for 'bigamy' to take place if this is repealed.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If we simply consider many of the unofficial weddings that have taken place, in some very strange venues and places, then we must surely realize that this could open the door to many problems. Marriage must be conducted with dignity and seriousness, it is not a joke and it is not an area for light-hearted attitudes to reign! It would concern me as to how safety and safeguards can be assured if we allow such a provision.

Please share your views below:

No to all!

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any of these scenarios would be subject to agreement by the various organizations and authorities involved. There may be odd occasions when a civil wedding may form part of a religious wedding ceremony. There may be an odd occasion where a religious body may need the use of a larger venue, such as a school or community hall due to limited space available. I cannot understand why any non-religious belief wedding would want to use a religious venue, so prohibiting this would certainly help to prevent a conflict in the law on such matters.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reluctantly, in accordance with my faith and beliefs, I cannot agree with factor 4.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reluctantly, in accordance with my faith and beliefs, I cannot agree with factor 1.b.ii.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I see nothing wrong with the current laws on marriage and believe they provide suitable and adequate provision for those couples who want to get married. I do understand that there are 'other parties' who are included in these proposals, of whom I would reluctantly not support in accordance with my faith and beliefs. No doubt these proposals would likely lead to an increase in those 'other parties' getting married as well, but I would not encourage it in any way. To my mind the end does not justify the means!

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSN-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 07:49:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Fellowship of Professional Celebrants

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

The wish to include religious and faith elements without a full religious ceremony - especially where there are mixed faiths.  
Outdoor ceremonies, ceremonies in meaningful venues and venues that are special to a couple rather than sanctioned by law.  
Inclusion of symbolic elements.  
True choice over the length, style and content of a ceremony, including readings, poems, songs, and vows.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It has really highlighted the rigidity of the process for registering a marriage.  
This is an extremely important element of legal process but it is NOT a meaningful ceremony.  
The very restricted registrar led ceremony is not a true and meaningful option for many who do not wish to have a wedding ceremony and marriage solemnised within a formalised religious establishment.  
A legal registering of a marriage and a wedding ceremony should be something that is meaningful and personal to the couple, to their core values and their beliefs.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It seems unnecessary as the notice period should be sufficient in terms of any legal checks or timescales for objection to a marriage.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Much more flexible and in keeping with the needs of a modern couple. It still seems to offer the same legal safeguards and assurances though.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I feel this offers compromise and flexibility without undue delay. It underlines that the couple still need to ensure that they are committed to the legal process.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that this year has demonstrated that all manner of interviews can be held remotely and via IG secure video links. I do feel that there would need to be good verification processes and yes, a low threshold for asking for further assurances in the case of suspected sham or forced marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. This sounds as though it will offer a fair and safe option for many UK residents.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Much more accessible. Much more in keeping with modern day society. You have still considered the appropriate safeguards.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure why this would be needed at the point of registration if the couple was still deciding?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be imperative if we are to fully embrace independent celebrants who may be self employed.

Please share your views below:

Yes indeed. In circumstances such as couple becoming aware of their right to choose an efficient after registering their officiant, feeling that they have not been well served by their original officiant, unexpected circumstances rendering their original officiant unavailable.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. this is very limiting. I would suggest 'may be published ....., but must also be published in the church where the wedding is to take place'

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

yes. I agree.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. I would view this as a necessary safeguard both legally but in terms of safeguarding vulnerable adults.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why trusted clergy should not be able to continue to undertake the preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These feel like appropriate responsibilities.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think this would limit a couples options. There may be religious institutions or other faith/belief organisations that wish to hold ceremonies and have these ceremonies officiated at by a registration officer.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

this should be more than sufficient.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure that I understand their role, training, or experience well enough to comment.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to discriminate against other formal organisations which may not be religious or a faith/belief organisation

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not. This services ONLY humanists at this point. This marginalises the couples who may wish to have a legally registered marriage officiated at by an independent celebrant who is open to all manner of beliefs and faiths, yet who remains fully committed to the correct legal process and safeguards whilst TRULY celebrating all faiths, religions, and diversities without putting them in just yet another box!

Please share your views below:

Formal, established independent celebrant training bodies such as those represented by the Wedding Celebrant Commission (WCC). These organisations are tested within the wedding industry, have robust and tested teaching programmes and ongoing professional development at their heart. They uphold standards whilst celebrating diversity and the right of the couple to express themselves, their beliefs, their core values.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this seems to favour only Humanist weddings and to marginalise truly independent celebrants and organisations.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I would suggest that there still has to be a commonly recognised level of morality and legality to uphold the important and solemn nature of a marriage.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Again, in principle, but as previously also to apply to more than simply non-religious belief organisations.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, in principle, but as previously also to apply to more than simply non-religious belief organisations.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would seem appropriate to me if we could fully understand how the giber Register Office was to moderate it's decision making.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, in principle, but as previously also to apply to more than simply non-religious belief organisations. There would need to be very clear standards that were uniformly applied across all organisations in terms of fitness to practice. I am a registered nurse so fitness to practice is something dear to my heart.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, in principle, but as previously also to apply to more than simply non-religious belief organisations.

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registering of a marriage is only one part of a wedding ceremony. It should be the case that element of a legally binding wedding ceremony relating to the actual act of registering, should be a standard price itemised in a transparent manner, the rest of what an independent celebrant may include is a couples choice. Prices will reflect this.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure that I fully understand this question.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

i can't see how any officiant with integrity could claim to fully represent all 3!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest this should be limited to the element of a legal wedding ceremony relating to the legal registering of the marriage only. the proposal is too broad and could potentially marginalises a couples choice of ceremony and ritual.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What would the appeals and adjudication process be?

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure. Supply and demand surely but equally dilatation of quality, standards and adequate monitoring of needs considering. Limitless numbers will be problematic.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a nurse registered with the NMC, we re required to evidence CPD triennially. I would expect the same to be demanded of me as a celebrant with the authority to register legal marriages.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle but once again, it marginalises independent celebrant officiant led ceremonies where there not not be any faith element. The couple will still have beliefs about what marriage is.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - assuming that

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the safeguards remain.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Absolutely. this would make the world of difference to couples from different religions where they wish to have a legally binding blended ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Prayers and blessings specific to an individual's religion as a minimum, Communion etc.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unclear what this means.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These should be private invitation only affairs. Due notice to object has been given in the preliminaries

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is outdated to assume that the venue has any standing on the integrity of a legal registering of marriage. It is the legal checks, the preliminaries, and declarations within the ceremony that matter.

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Unless it can be guaranteed that whilst in the air the carrier vessel does not leave English air space?? Ditto ocean based ceremonies.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As per my previous answer. I believe these are private events. Public access is not required.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason for these limitations. again, blended faith and religious ceremonies would be marginalised by such rules. i feel it would be for the relevant church to decide who they permitted to officiate at a ceremony on their premises.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems apt if they re accountable for the ceremony and legal registration.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems appropriate and within keeping of the gravitas and integrity of the legal registering of a marriage.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure. Only with due consultation on what would constitute safe and dignified.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to be a sensible and efficient move.

Please share your views below:

The registered officiant could nominate venues regularly hosting weddings and put them forward to the General Register Office if this is to be the overarching body.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems apt.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe the couple should have the choice and the option.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds sensible.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems reasonable to me.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It would depend on the extend of the mistakes in the issuance of the schedule and the systems and timescales agreed to correct them before the marriage is rendered unlawful?

if all assurances have been sought in the preliminaries then is there a need for witnesses? people may choose to have them but should they be a legal requirement ?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These appear to be appropriate sanctions.

#### Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure. I do feel that it is important in some way that a couple are demonstrating some level of commitment to each other to safeguard against sham marriage but is it i) meaningful in any real way, ii) enforceable?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should still be a legal registering of a marriage where the preliminary checks have satisfied that both parties are truly consenting to this union. a presumption of marriage where no such legal process or safeguard has been undertaken could put this coerced into cohabiting at risk of further exploitation.

#### Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure. Surely capacity to consent should be assessed as part of the preliminaries? If capacity was established then 3 years is ample without exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstances rule should be agreed.

#### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

#### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

unsure.

#### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But a shortened notice

#### Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure. I do believe there needs to be a single, overarching authority.

#### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

#### Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

with a caveat that emergency provisions and what constitutes an emergency are very clearly defined and agreed centrally. It should not be the place of the officiant or individual governing bodies to agree what these are.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Gosh. this could mean so many things. i would need to understand more.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As previously stated, as long as the vessel does not leave English waters.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This may be a reasonable compromise.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Royal Navy vessels

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The name of the officiant should be mandatory.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It would make a nonsense of the marriage law and to the hard work, training, and integrity of those who have pledged to uphold the law of the land and to ensure that legal marriages are only entered into by those who are consenting and who understand the legally binding implications of what they are entering into.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I'm not able to offer any valid insight. it would be assumption only.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems appropriate as long as an officiant has the right to waive that fee as they see fit.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

i feel that there needs to be some level of compassionate compromise here. a officiant would not be forced to take a ceremony so in choosing to do so, they would be agreeing to a fair and compassionately calculated fee appropriate to the difficult circumstances.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems appropriate.

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

with the understanding that this is for the purposes of the registering and not for a full ceremony ?

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not clear to whom this would apply and to what elements of the legal ceremony?

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again. This speaks to fairness. Love is love.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

...and also be discretionary so guidance only should an officiant choose to charge a fee.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not exclusively the Registrar General. It should extend to the leading trainers of sanctioned training agencies should the law permit independent celebrants as officiants. Perhaps a small fee proportionate to costs to authorise those leading trainers of these organisations.

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both. This year more than ever I have clear evidence of couples feeling frustrated, curtailed, let down by the current marriage law.

I think that if the law was to change, it help couples feel as though within the prescribed law of the land, their voice, their core values, and their beliefs is what they are signing up for. A truly meaningful and personal ceremony, not a process or a template.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I wold say that 25% of my bookings for 2021 are on account of availability of a register office wedding ceremony and solemnisation/legal registration of marriage. As we have worked together that have, without fail, felt delighted at the ceremony and were unable to understand why this option did not have the same standing as a legal ceremony as - direct quote "it is so much more meaningful", "it really celebrates our love and everything that our loved ones love about us", "My family feel it was the best wedding ceremony that they have ever been to".

My first ever wedding ceremony was held at the outhouse of a local pub. A [REDACTED] landmark and one that was dear to the couple. They met there and celebrated all family and significant events there. It was their dear wish to be married there. It would have been even more meaningful had this been their legal registration of marriage too. Sadly, it is not an approved venue so this was not possible, but we have the MOST amazing ceremony with tears, laughter and true meaning. [REDACTED] remain very very happily married and they continue to share pictures of married life with me.

I had a wedding ceremony at the [REDACTED] where the couple had several pieces of very meaningful music that the registrar would not permit within the ceremony - ditto about. We had the most amazing ceremony.

[REDACTED] - beautiful, personal, outdoor or under canvas. A popular local wedding venue yet they can not hold legal ceremonies madness.

I had a wedding this time last year at [REDACTED] where the couple were catholic and Hindu. they wanted to blend and incorporate both religions and faiths. They anted a Polish Vodka ceremony as this was culturally appropriate and they wanted it within the ceremony. It was a very beautiful element and the grooms maternal grandmother led it. It did not incapacitate anybody or undermine the ceremony. It was just beautiful.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

2020 - I had 23 wedding ceremonies booked. In 2021 I have 24 booked. 24 couples who chose me as an independent celebrant based on their wish to have total control over the content of their wedding ceremony. meaningful ceremonies, choice re: the time, the music, the venue of THEIR special day. Couples who all had to register their marriage outside of the ceremony, but who would have pressed and saved time and money, to do it within the ceremony itself. Couples who respected the law - who wanted to marry legally and with the prescribed rules, safeguards, and required registration , but in a way that was concordant with their core values and beliefs.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

As per my prevue answers. I know several venues such as [REDACTED] , where they loose bookings as they can not provide legal marriages.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I believe that with the appropriate safeguards, the venue is the least important element of a legal registration. It is the content and the signing of a legal register that for me is the legally critical element.

Restrictions to venues and the availability of council registrars and religious officiants would be relieved offering flexibility. 25% of my bookings are made because of lack of availability.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unable to answer this.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I imagine it will only support and offer flexibility. Increased venues and choice for all.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unsure.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unsure.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Unsure. i imagine it would be positive and it would offer exiting options to the industry as well as to couples and staff working within it.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I think it would increase completion in a good way and reduce the over all costs to couples who are not needing to pay for both a wedding ceremony and to register the marriage.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSB-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 09:29:26

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

work as a police officer and need to be impartial

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

yes but should also have responsibility for the content of the wedding ceremony itself to reflect the seriousness of the marriage vows

dignity and solemnity need to be defined clearly

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

couples should not be able to get married without one party being present. This can lead to abuse and waters down the seriousness of the marriage vows.

it's not too much to ask couples to say certain words when there is already great flexibility in the marriage vows

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

the seriousness of marriage should not be watered down. It's not day trip but a promise of commitment to each other for life and the venue should reflect this

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

this safeguard was created to prevent forced marriage which unfortunately still happens in our society today

marriage is a ceremony of public significance and the open doors policy needs to reflect this

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

for some churches who do not have their own building it would be a useful option but this must not be misused by other organisations to water down the seriousness of marriage and get married in e.g. a dungeon

Please share your views below:

the wedding venue needs to reflect the seriousness and solemnity of marriage and not e.g. take place in a Burger King restaurant.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

how do you test this? how do you define "safe" and "dignified"? Seems like a good idea in principle if it's not abused

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8V-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 09:44:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The words prescribed in the marriage services of the coe reflect the nature and significance of marriage and should not be a matter of opinion.

The present time honoured words reflect the two essential elements of marriage, that it is a permanent, i.e. that is life long / a commitment for life, also expressed in the words 'till death do us part; and that it is an exclusive sexual commitment, between the two being married and only them.

To change these essential elements (The life long permanence and the sexual exclusiveness) of marriage is to change marriage itself.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To make the form of ceremony a 'do it yourself' construction is to destroy the time -honoured understanding of marriage that has brought benefit and stability to life in the UK for many hundreds of years.

To make this change would be to weaken one of the foundations of our society.

It would weaken family life.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The benefit of having a publically recognised, commonly understood relationship of life long, sexually exclusive relationship is supported and expressed in the 'public' nature of the wedding ceremony.

To change this would be to weaken an essential element of the marriage relationship.

It would also cause confusion for the friends and family of those who get married.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8P-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 09:48:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants really should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.  
the proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

As it stands it is too wishy-washy.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This greatly reduces the seriousness and commitment of the covenant agreement.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to a “a circus” instead of what a marriage ceremony should be.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony should be open for all to see, not hidden away in darkness. Is there is something to hide it should not happen.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSY-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 09:51:42

### About you

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Name:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

No

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married for 50 years

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Legally married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Married legally by choice

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Married legally by choice

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

- Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.
- Please state that this risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.
- You can note that there is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.
- It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.
- The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- I reiterate the need to recognise the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.
- The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.
- Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the

Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal has the potential to undermine the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

- There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but you should express caution that this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.

- Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. Such 'ceremonies' would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Opportunities which would undermine the seriousness of marriage must not be permitted.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants must be given the opportunity of not participating in ceremonies where the officiant would not deem suitable

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense in a civilised dignified country

Other

Please expand on your answer:

OK but the officiant should be able to opt out if not in agreement with recommendations. We need officiants to be of sound mind and decent character.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would help prevent officiants having to participate in a ceremony at what they considered to be an inappropriate venue.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We must ensure that ceremonies are not permissible if they undermine the seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF88-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 09:56:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but the words Dignity and Solemnity need to be clarified.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consent should be in public and verbal unless one of the parties is unable to speak when an agreed alternative such as sign language can be used.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an important lifetime commitment and there needs to be some formal wording with acceptable alternatives/

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To have a ceremony such as Jewish, one of the parties should be of that faith.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremony must be seen in public to reduce risk of forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as public access can take place.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the terms Safe and Dignified need to be clarified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFS5-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:03:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married through the Church.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Not relevant.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Weddings had to be postponed, which was understandable.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This period is far too short in any case; permanent residence should be part of the commitment. This period should be at least a month to ensure stability.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the notice period is increased, not reduced.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least three months, unless circumstances are exceptional (e.g. imminent death of one of the partners). Marriage should be a commitment for life, not convenience. Such a delay will reinforce this message, and should not be an inconvenience.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews must be the exception, not the rule e.g. in current circumstances. There are too many cases of coercion in arrange marriages from other traditions that are not consistent with British standards and history.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes; these can be exceptional circumstances.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Online is useful, but should not replace local posting. Both should be required.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unavoidable delay is too vague. this needs to be clarified, or it will become an excuse for late changes without adequate reason.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not a member of this church, so I cannot comment.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As before.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How does this differ from current requirements? What is the definition of such an officiant?

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The civil wedding is to meet legal requirements. A church wedding is still, in my view, a requirement for a marriage.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why is this constrained to the Anglican churches? Why can a Roman Catholic priest be empowered similarly?

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Non-religious organisations should be considered on a case-by-case basis, as a minimum. I do not believe they should be so empowered.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Non-religious organisations have no place in marriage, by definition.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These are sects, not religious organisations.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The definition of 'public policy and morality' is a cause of significant concern. This is the start of a slippery slope, and non-religious organisations should be excluded, as noted before. How significant should the promotion of purposes contrary to public policy be? As an example, there are strongly held beliefs that same sex marriage is a total misunderstanding of the definition of marriage, and that partnerships with equal legal rights is a better option, and maintains beliefs. This is a current misunderstanding, and may well change in the future - does this exclude organisations that do not support this misguided present policy? Equally on abortion and euthanasia. This is the start of the slippery slope of totalitarianism.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes - it is their position that is the relevant element.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More bureaucracy...

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How are their beliefs and suitability to be assessed?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is part of their duty in such nominations.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Partial yes, as the third requirement is open to interpretation and political bias.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But how is this to be guaranteed?

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a charter for unreasonable behaviour, and for the bypassing of rules for monetary gain.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The definition of dignity and solemnity need to be clarified. Officials should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the format of the ceremony, and its content, upholds the sacrament of marriage, and its long-term commitment and solemnity.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that it emphasises the solemnity and dignity of marriage and the service.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no independent officiants - why should such a body of people exist? What is in it for them, other than monetary gain, if they are not part of a recognised organisation?

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How is this to be measured and monitored? Further unnecessary bureaucracy.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties must be present at the ceremony - simple signature of a document is insufficient. Public declarations should be made verbally at the ceremony - This is a core requirement. The ceremony or service must include specified elements, ideally actual statements. It is not just about the couple's wishes; it is about demonstrating free consent into a lifetime commitment, so the declarations must be public and in a specified format for the ceremony to have validity. There is already significant flexibility; more is not needed.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated before, the form and ceremony should reflect the solemnity of the commitment, and that it is a public declaration in which society (and the state) have an interest. It is not a free-for-all spur of the moment act. There have been many cases of totally irreverent 'ceremonies' that do not reflect the importance of the commitment - this must not continue.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The religious commitment remains the important service, other than for legal requirements, understandably.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a service should be permitted - why should this be repealed?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential to protect against forced marriage. THIS PROPOSAL MUST NOT GO AHEAD TO ASSURE VALID MARRIAGES. The requirement was introduced to guard against such practices, and we are seeing other traditions acting against this, which is not acceptable by British standards.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue must be dignified and safe. Accordingly, this must not go ahead.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

As noted before, this is a solemn commitment, and the venue must reflect this. Accordingly, venues must be limited; a free-for-all is not acceptable.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is required to meet the requirements of ensuring a true wedding with mutual consent of the parties. Coercion has been seen in marriages, and openness of the venue is a guard against this.

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Non-religious belief organisations should not form part of this legislation.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that it meets minimum (defined) requirements to uphold the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clarity is required on 'dignified', as this is open to interpretation and stringent safeguards are required to maintain the status of marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And legal responsibility for the decision should rest with the officiant - to exclude inappropriate locations.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But must exclude standard settings e.g. registry offices, churches.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English must always be used; Welsh is not sufficiently widely used.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too open to abuse.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The lack of appropriate free speech in this country at present makes comment on same sex marriages impossible.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage commitment is necessary.

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that they maintain the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that they maintain the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided that it is not a recognised church location, where the fee should be standardised.

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Easier incorporation of the civil elements of a marriage into a church service would increase the take up of marriage. Standardised charges and process is also important.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8X-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:04:49

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What is your name?

Name:

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Personal response

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[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

my marriage is recognised by law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a as my marriage is recognised by law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a as my marriage is recognised by law

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a as my marriage is recognised by law

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

it is essential to me to have a legally binding marriage

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

n/a

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would risk precluding some churches from having wedding ceremonies as many churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person.

Some churches may hold weddings infrequently and are therefore less familiar with the legal requirements and therefore this idea poses a danger of some churches falling foul of weddings law. For other churches it could be impractical to have an authorised person, perhaps because the church is small or does not have a minister.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The wording “contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants. Also the test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently, wedding officiants are either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who are likely to have strongly-held beliefs on marriage. Allowing independent officiants would open the door to those who may not place such a high value on marriage.

Couples might choose independent officiants because they have been refused the religious ceremony of their choice. This could happen where a couple's beliefs or behaviour are not consistent with the religion they choose for the wedding. Having an independent officiant conduct a pseudo-religious ceremony could misrepresent the religious group's position on, for example, same-sex marriage. Or there might be beliefs from more than one religion brought into a single ceremony, giving a distorted picture of all the faiths involved.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. Without them the wedding ceremony can be as meaningless as a couple or officiant chooses, and legal marriage can become nothing more than a certificate from the Government. Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, let alone promises of any kind.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A requirement for officiants to ensure that the ceremony does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage is too subjective. It will not prevent couples finding an officiant to agree to even the most extreme wishes. If people can entirely customise their own weddings, they might blend together different elements from faith ceremonies inappropriately, effectively making a parody of those ceremonies. This could be highly offensive to people of those faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' requirement is a valuable part of wedding day celebrations, making it clear that marriage is not a private affair, but rather is important to society as a whole.

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against forced marriage and bigamy, for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This causes serious concern as it is unclear what safeguards will prevent unsuitable venues being used and therefore how will the dignity of such ceremonies be guaranteed?

Whilst the consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', it lacks definition on what this means or how it will be tested. It is important that venues must not detract from the solemn occasion of the wedding.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF82-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:06:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Stability is important for marriage to work

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

two weeks- currently nothing worthwhile gets done quickly

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Better than nothing

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

again not preferred because of the dangers of a sham marriage

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

can't imagine other circumstances!

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

don't see the point in this!

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

war damage unlikely- very remote

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

no- marriage must not be too easy to arrange!

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

yes I agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes agree

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

why not?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage isn't just something for the individuals concerned: it has a wider witness and impact on society

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This seems a pick and mix solution- the authority involved should be respected!

Please share your views below:

Don't agree

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For many the religious service is the important bit- marriage was instituted by God in the first place



Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

again there must be nothing secretive about it, so that the declaration is published abroad, otherwise divorce will not seem so onerous

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To cheapen marriage and remove the dignity from such is abhorrent

Please share your views below:

you can always have a civil ceremony followed by a religious one

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

pick and mix again

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

officiants

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

witnessess needed to retain the public nature of marriage

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

too easy

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

home must be established for the benefit of society

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

dignity and territory must be clear

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

should not be held there in the first place

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

see above

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

what happens now?

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't think marriage should be made too easy to enter into

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF83-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:08:49

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our society is being torn apart by marriage being treated as something trivial, which means families are torn apart and children are now considered safer at school than at home. This can all change! But it begins with treating marriage as important, which means it's not at our personal whim. Being resident for seven days prior is one more safeguard against treating marriage casually, but instead being thoughtful, deliberate, and willing to take on all the responsibilities associated with it.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above, while it might be a nuisance, having to be present in person recognises that marriage matters to those physically in community: it is NOT a purely personal matter but a very significant social matter. It dignifies the community to require that marriage be openly social.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The current 28 days seems sensible and, at the very least, I would not advise against lessening the time. Emotions run rampant and marriage is NOT to be entered into lightly! To permit rushing is to open the door to foolish mistakes, emotional decisions, and abuse.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No. Marriage should matter enough that people make the effort to come in person. This is not like a job interview you can easily quit later. This is supposed to be a relationship for life. Perhaps the more burdensome the requirements, the more seriously people will take it and fewer marriages will end.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice should be able to be given for those in the military (and probably other exceptions of which I'm unaware).

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The more public the better, for the sake of society. Marriage should be open, public and a bedrock of society.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Marriage Schedule should be considered a weighty document, not to be trifled with. Making it valid for 12 months trivialises marriage.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the parties want a substitute officiant, they should apply for a different schedule.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as 'unavoidable delay' doesn't become code for anything at all.

Please share your views below:

No, because this again degrades the significance of marriage.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

(Not familiar with this)

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

(no answer)

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

(no answer)

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely. And the clergy should take their responsibility far more seriously.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, as long as this extends to the entire ceremony (and lead-up). This needs a careful definition for what 'dignity' and 'solemnity' mean, which is NOT a personal decision.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is bad for society. Constraints bring order and stability, and prescribed words for a marriage ceremony are one way of bringing order and stability to society. If you can say anything you want, then marriage comes to mean 'anything you want'. The point is that marriage is NOT some personal decision: it is a social institution that you make a personal decision to enter INTO. You choose to enter into a socially defined relationship, which means there must be initiation rites that mark the before and after. Solemnity and dignity would mean nothing if there were no constraints.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This, too, makes marriage a personal, private matter. For a birthday party, of course! For a marriage, no: there need to be social norms to which every marriage conforms. Otherwise, it's not a marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Were we to prohibit religious content, we would be seriously impeding freedom.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage must be PUBLIC. This is a vital protection against forced marriage, which still happens today!

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above, birthday parties can be personal and private, but marriages must not be. A significant social ceremony must have constraints of appropriateness: solemnity and dignity will not be preserved if the wedding can take place anywhere.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

'Solemnity and dignity' do not permit in the air. 'Public' does not permit in private homes.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Our society needs more clarity, not more confusion.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should not be left to individual officiants.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

'Safe' and 'dignified' would need to be defined for this to work. Otherwise, it will be too easy to bully an officiant into accepting anything.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law discourages most easy, whimsical marriages. The proposals here would encourage more people to take marriage lightly, which means more would become legally married but 'marriage' would no longer have social significance, because it would be so easily to both get married and get divorced.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSU-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:10:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a social and not just a personal event. All cultures up until the present have had recognised ways of acknowledging the special relationship of a man and a woman. From an anthropological perspective these include a ritual (the wedding), legal agreement, and an oath sign. Respecting the wisdom of this universal tradition is vital for the continuation of a culture.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The restrictions on numbers has highlighted the social and family significance of weddings. Such celebrations have been less than the ideal.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a minimal requirement in order to prevent at least some fraud and sham marriages.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The less the time given, the more opportunity there is for fraud or forced marriages.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No - again, changing the law would make subversion and fraud all the easier, especially with the possibilities of technology.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As with the traditional banns, this is an opportunity to prevent bigamy or a person in multiple sexual relationships.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a check on the validity of the officiant.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the substitute officiant needs to be recognised and authorised.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Since marriage involves both parties it is bizarre that it should only be published in one of the churches

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This is probably practically impossible. The check of evidence should be by the state registry.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

This is a significant recognition of the church's role in affirming and strengthening marriage.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

From a philosophical perspective the definition is incoherent - the only alternative to a belief in some divinely ordered world is an individualistic and subjective approach that has little or no consistency. 'Secular' is often a negative term allowing those with very different views to counter various beliefs in the divine, and it is difficult to impossible for such groupings to construct a coherent worldview. However, this is unlikely to be an area for discussion in this consultancy!

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems far too small a grouping, and capable of subversion or fraud.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Who defines public morality? This is dangerously vague.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

18 seems far too young to respect the dignity and responsibilities of the role. They should be suitable qualified and be at least 21.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1a Oral and public consent is vital and central to the tradition.

2 This would be a nightmare to police. Instead there should be a set of possible ways of expressing binding commitment.

3. It needs to be a both/and

4. both/and again

The purpose of the ceremony is to reinforce the binding nature of marriage, and this is enabled through multiple reinforcements.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is impossibly subjective and can easily be subverted to undermine the dignity and solemnity of the marriage service. There should be a set of minimal requirements. There is sufficient flexibility in the present forms.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This enables reinforcement of the commitments being made.

Please share your views below:

These would be helpful guides. The various denominations could provide such examples.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Multiple reinforcement is common in human rituals and brings multiple benefits.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The danger of subversion and forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The serious nature of the promises and implications of marriage should be reflected by the character of the location, and not mocked or diminished by frivolous attempts to be original.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All these lessen the dignity and public character of the service and can be trivialised.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are public not merely private declarations. They should not be reduced by an individualistic understanding.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too subjective and open to subversion.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It should not be hard for a committee to agree appropriate venues e.g. churches, civic halls, meeting rooms.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public and family event.

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is more than ample evidence of the insecurity of purely electronic record keeping. Both/and is required.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2 and 3 seem essential.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How does this prevent sham marriages? Consummation is an important oath sign of marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an important legal and public statement that is more than cohabitation.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous question about the importance of public and open access.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Naval ships would be an appropriate exception.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The nature of postmodern culture makes it increasingly difficult to appreciate and preserve marriage. Any attempts to undermine the safeguards of a wedding, or subvert its dignity and seriousness are to be resisted. Doing so will simply increase the number of sham or fraudulent marriages, and increase the rate of divorce. The weighty laws surrounding marriage also encourage a serious discussion by the two parties about the nature of marriage and its binding character.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The laws have minimal financial demands, compared to what is normally spent on dresses, reception etc. Again, a significant but not excessive cost emphasises the seriousness of the marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See previous comment

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8C-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:15:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Time for reflection this is not a race

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:



Please share your views below:

To avoid sharp practice

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Public morality needs leadership not disinterest

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Smacks of big brother

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Lacks formality to express seriousness

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Circus marriages are for laughs only

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Licence for idiots and lunatics

Please share your views below:

Stupidity knows no bounds

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Secret weddings a novel twist

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safe and dignified could be a boon for attention seekers

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFS3-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:16:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest a minimum of 30 days

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There should always be in-person interview unless an on-going health issue prevenst it.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice should contrinue outside.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No. Official arrangemenst should be closely followed.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, documentary evidence should be required and of the couple should be met separately. This can protect against forced marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both should be required to make separate declarations.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 27:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A public declaration should have prescribed words and marriage should not be regarded as a private arrangement or agreement only.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a set formal ceremony. Additions could be added so long as they did not contradict the formal ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Quotations from the Scriptures or sacred writings of the specific traditional religion should be permitted. This should exclude any newly created religions and be confined to long-standing religions. It should exclude 'pagan' and 'new age' religions.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage should remain a public act not a private one between the participants.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only a recognised place of dignity should be used.

Please share your views below:

A wedding should take place in avenue of suitabel public dignity and also public safety.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand the meaning of these questions

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A suitable place should be officially recognised by the general Register Office

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could open to the door to arranged marriages or marriages made to circumvent state laws.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I agree but with the exception of those in prison, or where it may be construed that the remaining party marry for the inheritance of the party with terminal illness.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be scrutinised carefully in case inheritance or any monetary gain is involved.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not for those in prison.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. Weddings should take place in designated public place of dignity and safety

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Since weddings of this kind should not take place these provisions have no meaning.

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSA-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:21:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Retired from parish ministry in a Church of England.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is not always easy to fulfil seven days residency before marriage, because of work and other commitments.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A couple getting married would find it difficult to attend an interview during a honeymoon period.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this sounds a good option.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this sounds sensible.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot understand the reason for this. Surely those living in the United Kingdom should be able to have banns published in other episcopal or Anglican churches to enable weddings in England and Wales.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

If a church is damaged because of war it is unlikely services will be taking place inside it.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Pastorally it is often helpful and informative if banns take place in both churches of the parties to be married.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree with number 1, as this potentially clarifies the legality of a marriage.

It is helpful pastorally to meet with the couple before the banns are called. Sometimes, when both parties are known to the clergy this need not be necessary.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This would prove unnecessary in some cases where the couple are known to the clergy.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

To have a civil ceremony first is surely an extra burden, when Anglican churches are able to act as Registrar.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I may not fully understand this question, but are you suggesting that clergy no longer act as Registrars? This would be a mistake, and unnecessary.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This is difficult. Personally I would prefer that occult and Satanic organisations do not have the right to officiate at marriages. Also Scientology, and freemasonry.

Why is it necessary to widen the scope, when there is already the option to have a civil ceremony with a Registrar?

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is unclear. The Anglican Church does not believe in gender neutral marriage, and would not want to see the law of the land usurping the law of God.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Would prefer only officiants by office to officiate.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be open to abuse.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very good, and guards against profiteering.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding fees are already far too high. Anglican fees are far too high.

I would prefer a limitation as to fees, preferably around the £200 mark.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, as this sounds contradictory.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a creation ordinance, given by God at the dawn of time for the benefit of all peoples. It is a solemn, serious and joyful undertaking.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There might need to be an independent assessment, and outside authorisation to maintain integrity.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An upper age limit of seventy five would be good.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity and seriousness of marriage is underlined through a public declaration in the sight of God that there is no impediment to marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will help fully broaden the substance of civil ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Scriptures would be helpful, or Christian poetry. Also piped Christian hymnody at the beginning and end.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Committed Christians who are divorced will prefer a civil ceremony, followed by a service of dedication and prayer after civil marriage. This is what occurred with Prince Charles and Camilla, and should remain as permitted.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not something about which anyone should be ashamed, and open access to the ceremony should be allowed.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be open to abuse, and to trivialising the nature of marriage, and cheapening it.  
It is advisable to have clear guidelines as to where marriages can take place.

Please share your views below:

An appearance of sensationalising, or a desire to turn marriage into a celebrity or publicity occasion should be resisted.  
I would only include the outdoors in the above, within the grounds of a hotel or reception area.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Integrity is important.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too subjective. There need to be criteria.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But still think external guidelines should apply.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be tighter regulations.

Please share your views below:

There should not be a free for all. Premises, or the outdoor location should be officially authorised by the local council.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Isn't this already occurring?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be safeguards, with witnesses present. A genuine mistake or oversight as regards a signature is different, which needs to be rectified later.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This, surely, could result in abuse of marriage, with marriage taking place to enable a settlement in a country, and for marriage to effectively be fictitious.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But with a clear justification within any time frame that consent has not been given. This will enable forced, coercive marriages to be swiftly terminated.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Important to be as flexible as possible for people in these categories.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure about this. Could this be open to abuse, and fake marriages?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not to proceed remotely. Attendance in person by the registrar, witnesses and the couple should be mandatory.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In emergency only.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds like too much licence, with marriage agreed impulsively.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Not in favour of this.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not in favour of these kinds of wedding, apart from emergency where a couple is facing death or terminal illness.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not in favour of these kinds of wedding.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No, not in my knowledge.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But please keep fees as low as possible.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

A lower fee on compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But please keep these fees low.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But please guard against exorbitant fees.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please reduce these on compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Prefer this, definitely.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

This is an unknown. Not sure whether these proposals will increase the number of those legally married.

Having said that, Anglican fees are far too high, and need to be reduced to somewhere in the region of £200.

Reducing fees across the board may conceivably encourage more marriages.

What will alter everything is a revival of Christian Faith, living in the fear of God, and the recovery of true marriage complementarity, a man and a woman cleaving together for life.



Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I was Vicar in a parish for almost thirty five years, and was always embarrassed by Church of England fees, and waived them when I possibly could.

Often committed members of a congregation are already tithing, or giving generously, and should not be required to pay anything for the marriage of a son or daughter.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Have answered these questions earlier.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This is an unknown for me.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Already answered.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8Z-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:21:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Ex church warden

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it should be longer than 7 days

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

By doing this remotely,I think people can hide the truth

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At non religious weddings this would mean anyone could officiate at a wedding

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Please do not cheapen the sanctity of marriage

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There has to be a limit as to where someone can get married.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Documents should be signed at the time of the wedding

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe that people in prison should be allowed to marry as they had the choice to offend and they are there for a reason , they should not be allowed to marry until they come out

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

If a couple are serious about getting married and want to commit to each other , they can do so now. By getting more couples to marry rather than co habit will just lead to more divorces. Please don't take away the sincerity of a marriage , it should not be taken lightly, it should be a life long commitment if possible. To trivialise it will be a disaster .

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs of marriage should not matter if people are serious about a legally binding commitment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

By opening up any place to get married, the churches will suffer, we rely a great deal on the finances that we get from providing church buildings for marriage ceremonies.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8H-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:25:44

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a member of the Anglican Church (not an official or Minister).

With my wife we deliver Marriage Preparation and Marriage Courses to support and assist couples

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We have been married 49 years and had a wedding ceremony in the Anglican Church performed by a Minister

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experiences

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement gives official recognition of persons status

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as follow up is def done, otherwise arranged/convenience marriages are easier to facilitate

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

28 days to give adequate time to confirm facts given

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Not a good enough check on circumstances if done remotely - open to abuse

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree with this

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as long as only exceptional circs is this not done

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No it should be present legally binding format

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Amended schedule is not adequate, it can omit and add all sorts of things, missing important parts and replacing with irreverent

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No official persons as at present only - otherwise takes away the legality of professionally recognised persons

Please share your views below:

No should not be allowed

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding banns are a check on legibility

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Don't see why not

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No as at present provides a better check on eligibility

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this provides a good check on eligibility

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes again this has stood the test of time as a very good check on eligibility of couples

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Retain what has historically been a good check by the Anglican Church on eligibility

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this works

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise non official persons who do not value marriage could officiate, Mickey Mouse

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Adequate check

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It works

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provides a check

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is an established institution in world and imparticlar the UK. If couples do not want to embrace Anglican marriage, go for Registry office marriage or don't get married legally and let those that want to retain the appropriate standards

Please share your views below:

Yes consult with Religious orgs to establish list

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provides a check

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes not adequate

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consider this

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Do not change present system

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not adequate checks

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not adequate checks being made retain present

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult with present orgs

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Does not provide proper marriage -Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provides a check



Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Please share your views below:

No, go for a religious ceremony

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Please share your views below:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches  
Weddings should take place as at present venues to retain dignity and solemnness

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Please share your views below:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

If compliant with present regs ok

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provide adequate check on circs

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consult present orgs ie Anglican Church & other churches

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The present marriage ceremony is for those wanting marriage and should not be altered to suit others whims or tendencies. Go for a civil marriage if thats what is wanted



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8T-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:25:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm divorced

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

One of my nieces got married this year in 2 parts: 1 a registry office part with 4 family members from each side 2 a ceremony with 30 including 6 from each side.

I would like to have attended despite the quarantine for travelling from abroad. The non-church premises were appropriate for an occasion I consider to have a formal aspect. I found the prepared homily too much associated with just the couple's happiness (not a bad thing) and not with the challenge of the commitment.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The notion of consent is key here.

It becomes far too open when there is no oral participation by the couple, Or when one member can even be absent, Also when the form of words (even without the 'No impediment' part) is so personalised that there's no expression of commitment. The element of a bond is important which can be recognised objectively by the state and the community

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This means a totally free choice about location which can be taken to extremes and where there is no longer any seriousness in the step being taken. The form of the ceremony is personalised to a degree where private choice is more important than the objective nature of a commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer Question 43

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity of marriage is seriously undermined. It becomes an event based on a novelty consumerist idea.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors in an appropriate location the dignity of the occasion can be maintained. Also the objective community aspect of a commitment. With the others there are 'dangers' on both counts.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYN-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:29:04

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

NOT REMOTELY

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

HAVE NO VIEW

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NO

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NO VIEW

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

SHOULD BE IN TWO PLACES

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

BOTH SHOULD HAPPEN

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

AGREED

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

ONLY TO THREE

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

BUT IS IT USUALLY TWO?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NONE

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

AGREE

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

NO THEY SHOULD NOT

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

WHAT IS A FIT AND PROPER PERSON?

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

SHOULD NOT HAPPEN

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

MUDDLED

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

NO THIS IS MADNESS

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

SHOULD BE TIME LIMIT- 1YEAR

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NEED 4

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

SHOULD MARRIAGE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

SHOULD NOT BE A MATTER OF LAW

Consultation Question 46:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NONE OF THE ABOVE

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

WISHY WASHY

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

NO IDEA

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

IT ISNOT ABOUT COSTS

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7H-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:31:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

marriage needs to be entered into carefully. This requirement helps that.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

allows time for participants to be surer of their feelings for each other and to withdraw if necessary

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in person interview would probably deliver a truthful verdict. Remoteness allows for fraud

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the officiant is officially and legally authorised to undertake a wedding ceremony

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns are a guard against sham and forced marriages

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, Banns should be read in the churches of both parties to the marriage

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Might be sensible if not too burdensome for the clergy person. It helps to safeguard the solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think they should to discern any impediment

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I think this should pertain still, as long as the state is behind as legal guarantor

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems sensible. I 5=thought it already in place for all weddings.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What of all the churches that are non conformist or non anglican , where the minister may not have the power to declare the marriage lawful. It would lead to a lot of people getting married having to have two ceremonies for legality.

Moslem and other religions' marriage ceremonies need to conform to British marriage law and so would need an officiant to make sure they comply.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Never knew that two were needed!

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I thought this has been the case for many years.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the officiant upholds British law on marriage



Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It may teach that marriage can be dissolved at one of the partner's whims. This could be highly damaging to the spouse and children. Whether religious or secular marriage must adhere to the National law.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I don't understand the thinking behind this question. Supposing the state law says that marriage is only for Moslems and Jews which pertains in Mauritania, then no one can get legally married according to Christian custom. If this were to happen in Britain, and an officiant from the Christian tradition was denied the ability to legally solemnise marriage, it would be an evil infringement of our liberties.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I believe there have been dodgy vicars who have performed weddings where the right procedures were not followed and were subsequently jailed. Individuals must be of good character to officiate whatever their office. Character is more important than office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems sensible. I thought there was already such a list.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It seems that any Tom, Dick and Harry, could be appointed for this important role. At present those dealing with marriage are highly trained, know the law and generally have a high opinion of true marriage, as being beneficial to society, where marriage is held as a highly honourable estate. Those without thorough training and regard for the high status of marriage, could trivialise it, demean it as is now happening in our cohabiting, non covenanting society. society

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems obvious but officiants must comply with British law as it stands

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Age 18 is maybe too young maybe to be uphold the dignity and solemnity of a lasting commitment to the marriage bond.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will come into the dodgy vicar class!

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think fees should be fixed rate yearly.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obvious! But the commission needs to define dignity and solemnity. These are very well defined in the Book of Common Prayer. Its famous vows should be part of every solemnisation of marriage in the modernised version.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it does not conflict with recognised vows like , "until death do us part" etc.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a regulatory body that they can be reported to, as well, so that the law can be enforced and their removal secured.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Indeed!.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be authorised within a month or two after vetting, etc

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This provision might get rid of good people unwilling to accept contrary views on marriage as ia still the case with homosexual marriage.

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The state needs to uphold the sanctity, the solemnity, the covenant agreement made between man and woman, for their benefit, for their children's benefit and for the benefit of society. Britain is full of broken marriages, broken homes, easy divorce laws, liaisons that give rise to deserted women, single mothers, single fathers. The government has ceased to back marriages financially. Men in particular have no responsibility to the children they conceive.

The prescribed words are essential to the probity and solemnisation of marriage and should not be undermined in these proposals. Marriage is not a private matter but one that affects the wider society. If it is cheapened it just contributes to misery and brokenness. So allowing personalised words which require no firm commitment to each other, just makes marriage pointless.

It seems also that the persons might not even have to attend a ceremony with one just signing the marriage schedule! This makes a mockery of the whole business.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

marriage is such an important institution that personal preferences must not allow it to be trivialised and undermined. The state itself needs to uphold the importance marriage has to the wider society and to the children born of the union. So the wedding itself needs to be public, so that good marriage law is maintained[ no forced marriages of old men to young girls, bigamists, etc]. It needs the solemnity of the proscribed words and venues to be such as uphold its dignity, wonder and solemnity. Getting married in hot air balloons, dressed as hedgehogs, etc trivialises the ceremony and the law commission should not approve whacky personal whims or undignified venues.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

AS long as they include the prescribed wording according to Biblical standards.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

with the proscribed words and solemnity

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know all the provisions of this act . If it was good for my parents ,it has been good for me and vast numbers of the happily married. I don't think it should be repealed to please the LGBT lobby if that is what is intended.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The public need to scrutinise what is going on and this is a safeguard to promote true marriage. Forced marriage is a great issue in British society, sadly, and this open doors requirement reduces that likelihood. There should be no repeal of this essential element of the law.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding could happen in a lap dancing club, a brothel. Anything goes these days and trivialises an important and solemn ceremony which needs to be done properly at a decent public venue. Marriage law must not pander to the whims and wishes of couples. They may need to be told that its solemnity needs an appropriate dignified venue and will only be conducted in such a place.

Please share your views below:

It needs to be done publicly. I thought captains were allowed to marry people on ships like the QE2. I would not approve of these in private. A nephew of mine was married ,under a canopy on a public beach by a proper, legal officiant, so out of doors -yes, but in public with all legal procedures.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated before

Consultation Question 50:

No

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Having civil and non religious weddings taking place in Christian churches clouds the issue of marriage as only between one man and one woman and is pointless if they do not intend to make their vows permanent and meaningful.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It will be open to abuse by corrupt officiants.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be laid down in law. The proposals of the law commission are very vague. In Europe, the Town Hall was the one place where legal marriage had to take place. The commission should specify places that are safe and dignified and if there are queries, the local authority could stipulate and advise.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they take into account what has been written previously in my answers.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would have thought this is part of the process of getting married which pertains now. ie. checking up that your venues are legal and functioning!

Please share your views below:

conjointly with all involved.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I thought this was already the case.

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The two languages are spoken in Wales, so both should be used to avoid fraud and confusion.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Seems alright, provided there is a hard copy.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYG-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:32:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

no change

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

no

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

and as now

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

don't know

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

agreed

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

The whole tone of the remainder of this document suggests that marriage will be further trivialised so the very idea that dignity and solemnity of the act of marriage will be upheld runs counter to this theme.

I have no idea if the authors of this document have any understanding of what dignity and solemnity mean. This needs to be defined.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties need to be present.

The existing prescribed words should be kept.

These proposals further trivialise the State's prescribed marriage and should be rejected.

The proposals that couples should invent their own words should be rejected.

These proposals will further lead to the destabilisation of society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness of marriage will inevitably be trivialised by these proposals.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors is a necessary safeguard to help prevent forced forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be very careful constraints on location to emphasise the seriousness of the commitment being made. eg McDonalds or Disneyland not appropriate.

Please share your views below:

There should be very careful constraints on location to emphasise the seriousness of the commitment being made. eg McDonalds or Disneyland not appropriate.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Most Register Office officials are incapable of deciding whether a location is safe and dignified. These terms are so vague. Anything other than the existing arrangements will lead to trivialisation of the importance of marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office is incapable of advising what is safe and dignified.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSX-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:39:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I don't have an organisation. I am a teacher.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Don't wish my views to effect my job position.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am married and it is a lawful marriage.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No barriers

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience during covid.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it's important that you get married somewhere where you are known. It should be somewhere where one of you lives. Marriage is something that is public and should be declared to your community. It's a celebration of love and commitment which is shared with the community you live in.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think it is a safeguarding issue that it is important that all interviews are in-person to safeguard against forced marriages. How can you tell if there is a concern, if there is no in-person meeting?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is important for them to be announced in their parish in church so it is a public announcement. Online - where would that go?

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think the banns should be read in the church that the wedding will take place in. Also announced in any churches that the wedding party regularly attend.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious organisations should have a nominated officiant.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Personally I believe all marriages between a man and a woman should have a religious officiant but that doesn't happen.

Please share your views below:

I feel only churches and registry offices should be places of wedding ceremonies due to the lawful and important ceremony. They do take place in other places and a officiant should be there to ensure all is in order.

I don't feel that any place should be legally allowed for the ceremony. By all means go there afterwards to celebrate.

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Religious organisations should be able to nominate their officiant. If people attend a religious place of worship they are happy with the morality ideals of their religion. You cannot and should not place public moral ideas (which change over time) onto religious organisations. People who make laws should be very careful about interfering with religion and morality. People should be able to get married in a religious place, holding their religious views and morality views. Also if a vicar , rabbi or imam doesn't want to marry two people of the same sex he shouldn't have to and should be free to decline.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes I agree but you need to define what these words mean. It is very important that the dignity of the marriage ceremony is upheld. It is a very important ceremony and should not be taken lightly. It is a commitment for life and thus should be quite serious in its undertaking.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious places do this very well and I don't think they need guidance but maybe other places do.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

In consultation as it depends what has happened.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should both express their consent orally in the wedding ceremony. The vows are solemn and serious and should be expressed as such. The vows should be expressed as they currently are. The officiant should be declaring them married. The signing should take place after the vows have been said.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anything can be done then and a wedding is something quite formal, serious and legally binding! Vows already can have parts added to make them more personal but the vows are essential to the wedding ceremony!  
The seriousness of the ceremony is important and should be seen in the wedding.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In a religious wedding the religious person in charge should have authority over who they agree to marry.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the couple wish.

Please share your views below:

Bible readings

Songs

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should have open doors. It is a public event. Vows are said in front of the family and community. This is especially important to stop forced marriages!!!

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are a formal, serious event and the venue should take this into account.

Please share your views below:

They should be in a registry office, religious building and that is all.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be in a religious building or registry office and then the celebration can be elsewhere.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The problem comes as what people mean by those words as people interpret words differently.  
Safeguards are not in place to protect people when you basically say you can get married anywhere so long as the officiant deems it safe and dignified.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think you are making this too wide to cover. Keep it simple!

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I've stated that weddings should be in a religious building, registry office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage needs vows said in front of a public gathering.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should be done in person not remotely.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF89-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:42:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews should take place

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice online should still be given in this instance

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

where possible in every case

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Points 1 and 2 should be enacted

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both should always attend apart from documented exceptional circumstances

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

This could be a never ending list where a contentious criteria could bring the dignity of the wedding ritual into disrepute.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a cap on fees and expenses

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a set period for review by GRO

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the dignity and gravity of the wedding ritual is maintained.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayer, Bible readings, hymns and music, poetry and readings.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding ritual should take place in a public/ semi-public location where the dignity of the event should be enhanced and not trivialised.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is not just a private affair it is a public declaration of commitment and love.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any GRO guidance should in itself be subject to consultation and be acceptable to those organisations that regularly provide for weddings

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

GRO - regular inspections and visits by this body

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of the meaning of point 4

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYE-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:43:35

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a few weeks, to prepare for the ceremony

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Should be in person so celebrant gets to know couple

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this should be allowable so that understanding of the marriage is transparent

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes both should be in attendance

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Churches should still be allowed to license and officiate weddings

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

non-religious belief organisations shouldn't have the ability to officiate weddings

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No these shouldn't be excluded as they hold their own beliefs that precede the government ideas of marriage

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limit with only a small percentage margin

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Content and time of words used should uphold dignity and solemnity of marriage. Divinity and solemnity should be explained in instructions and could be vague!

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Promises are being made that are dignified and solemn, these should be set by society

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Location is important, and should be a place that is dignified and solemn.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayers and songs

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it's a public affair not just private

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Places should be dignified and solemn, and public should be present

outdoors,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

It should be a place public are allowed they shouldn't be private affairs. The place should allow for solemnity, otherwise you'll have people getting married in s&m dungeons!

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The two types of weddings are separate, but some religious organisations use non-religious civil buildings for their services!

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is very babies and wouldn't take allot to convince a celebrant what the couple felt was dignified

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Long as public are invited to attend

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFS1-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:50:20

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I was made in 1973 legally

I feel marriage is very important and should not be taken lightly as it should be for life if you're lucky enough to find the right partner.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it's important that people have time and that they've lived together in the same country.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's too serious a commitment to do it by email or any other method other than a serious service

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The longer the better especially if children are going to be involved

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I repeat mad should be taken seriously it's a vile should last for life .

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I don't agree that it should have the possibility of being used to live in the country just for the sake of marriage which is not a commitment .

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No I think it should be a private matter between the couple preferably a man and a Woman

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think that's important as it's down to the man in the woman

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel it is important that these serious matters should be either at the church or at the register office .

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes provided it is the registered person of the church or registry office and he's taken seriously with proper vows

Please share your views below:

No

As I've said before in a church or registry office hopefully this makes the couple feel it's more binding commitment for life

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that's not important

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hopefully this won't be needed then England

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I don't feel this is necessary as people might want to get married in a registry office as well as a church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes this is a good idea as it will hopefully make the couple take it more seriously

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes it's important that both couples agree

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this should continue as I've said before it must be taken seriously

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's very important that both man and wife agreed to everything about the wedding

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be able to do it in a registry office or a church as it's a serious commitment .  
Intended for life.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes see previous answer

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer Marriages should be taken seriously and church or registry office.

Please share your views below:

Just the church and registry offices

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



See previous answers

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers that should be no fees for marrying a couple with conflicting Interests

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes it's an important commitment

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes see previous answers shall we provisionally propose a primary primary manager

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes see previous answer is where we have already said that it should be either in the church or should be in a register office.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers provisional proposal as an independent efficient on association with that

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

So long as it's in a church or registry office.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer is involved in this revision for both religious content should be at Mrs at several weddings are we provisionally propose religious content should be with

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided it is at the church or registry office and is official invite consultees views as to whether specific examples of religious contribution

Please share your views below:

Provided it is at the church or registry office and is official invite consultees views as to whether specific examples of religious contribution.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It's not necessary

As long as it takes place in a church or registry office and is official

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers we invite consultees views to whether the lotion

Please share your views below:

See previous answers

Church or registry office as this is a serious commitment

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Church or registry office as this is a serious commitment

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous Answers revision phase that there

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers church or registry office.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As with previous answers

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Please share your views below:

See previous answers

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers propose a couple should have the choice registering their marriage in England only if a couple wants to

### Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes a couple wants to registered in both languages I don't find that a problem

### Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I feel these should be signed in person

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

A marriage should be a serious commitment by a man and a woman either in church or in the registry office and should be signed as this is a commitment for life .

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

### Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer propose a presumption in favour of Fidelity a matter should arise where the couple of signed schedule one signed the schedule couple of given notice and gone through so many with the person acting sufficient to not require a couple of couches

### Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers photos of the three year time limit on petitioning for

### Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers](#)

Consultation Question 61:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers](#)

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

[See previous answers](#)

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers](#)

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers with original proposed schedules to best couples and one person for 12 months](#)

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers with Terminal ill people who want to get married they should be allowed to with no time limit.](#)

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers](#)

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers](#)

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers](#)

Other

Please expand on your answer:

[See previous answers](#)

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers church or registry office

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers to anything

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

It would be sensible to give a discount for someone who is terminally ill

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers revision process of any fee charge for the registration officer to ensure that the location is saved in France for you should be sat

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If it's at the church or registry office this won't apply

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers we provisionally propose fees for registration officer to officiate at a wedding please please vision for those of you for registration of Centre officiate at a wedding at the place where the person is there any

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers with terminal people

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The most important thing is for couples preferably a man and a wife to take it seriously that this is a commitment for life and that is what the that belief is now.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

[See previous answers](#)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

[See previous answers](#)

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous answers](#)

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



See previous answers

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8W-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:51:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My husband and I married in my church 49 years ago

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The church has always had a minimum of 3 weeks when banns are read out. The saying Marry in haste, repent at leisure comes to mind. Marriage is a very serious commitment and should not be undertaken lightly

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is always better to have face to face interviews

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

surely there is a risk involved in this suggestion

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Such as ? Examples need to be given

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My understanding is that we are still a united kingdom

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The existing arrangement means that banns are published in the parish/parishes where the couple reside and are known

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The church acknowledges a higher authority and is better able to carry out preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am tired of living in a country which undermines Christianity and trivialises the solemnity of marriage and family

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As in every profession there should be a register of licensed officiants

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would open the flood gates to mavericks

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A priest who has undertaken proper training I understand but how would other organisations decide who was fit and proper?

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to me that it is wide open to abuse

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are always rules and this would undermine the solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only a licensed religious leader should provide any religious content

Please share your views below:

NO

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is at the discretion of the priest involved and should remain so

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would mean that weddings could take place in inappropriate settings and trivialise the event

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Why would a non religious couple want to marry in a religious venue. They are special places not a tourist attraction

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These are serious errors

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

NO

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too vague

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be discretionary and depend on individual circumstances

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that the current law discourages couples from getting married and I believe that the proposed changes will not mean more marriages will take place, I also would have thought that at the current time parliament has more important issues than changing marriage laws

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A wedding can be arranged on a small budget if the couple so desire, as was the case in our own family. The cost is entirely the choice of the parties involved

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see no benefit to the proposed changes

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I see no benefit but only an undermining of the who;e proceedings

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see none

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSS-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:55:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I sought that information before getting married.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I chose otherwise.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

From a society and government perspective, preserving marriage provides a strong and powerful component of our social fabric. A healthy marriage should be grounded on serious public commitments that would foster a mutual beneficial relationship whose advantages would extrapolate to the broader community.

Therefore, it is important to have barriers to avoid people approaching marriage in a cavalier manner. It is not a light promise whispered in someone's ear after a few rounds in the pub. It is something designed to tailor their relationship for the unforeseeable future and affect all people around them (not even only immediate family).

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It has been awful. We were prevented to attend and witness marriages.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a bare minimum. We want healthy marriages to strengthen our communities. If anything this should be increased.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again it undermines the seriousness of the commitment.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

At least.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Not adequate. Perhaps provisionally for the pandemic, but that should be an exception not to be abused.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Not adequate. We want marriages to be regulated locally.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As public as possible.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have a view.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It sounds pertinent.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although a substitute must have an understanding of the law, and it should be a public official.

Please share your views below:

Provided he has the appropriate qualifications to officiate, one should be able to carry out his duties.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If it is pertinent that people are from those regions in the United Kingdom, this should remain valid (example: a Scottish couple working in London).

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It sounds relevant.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No view.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, but no strong view as to the Anglican qualification of the statement.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Both. But before being religious, from a society's perspective, it is a civil matter.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It is either married under the State or under the Church. Or both. More than that people could have their own private and unofficial arrangements.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Nope. Ideally, the government should be outside the religious organisation altogether. One should not, in particular, be exerting influence on others to comply to their own view of morality in matters grounded in belief.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No view.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Provided there are no non-religious officiant apart from public officials.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It needs to be someone qualified and knowledgeable of the law. A public official.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But no non-religious organisation.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not?

These questions should be accompanied by relevant cases to which they would apply.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No



Please expand on your answer:

This completely undermines the weightiness of marriage. This is supposed to be a public commitment and society should be invested in hearing and witnessing both parties in order to appease the solemnity which is required and to nurture a stronger sense of their impact in the community.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a serious engagement and not an event to be taken lightly. It is a serious commitment where two people are willing to take public vows to be concerned with each other for the sake of both, the community and the state.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is civil, it should be governed by civil law. If it is religious, likewise by religious arrangements.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Reading of Scripture, Religious Music

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These things could be both undertaken to the benefit of all.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly disagree. Marriage is a public matter and not a private one. If it is private, just abolish all of these regulations and leave people to their own arrangements. If it is regulated, we must be able to demonstrate the value of it for society and not only the individuals. Marriage promotes stronger and more cohesive societies, diminishes criminality, increases health, fosters better ethics and general perception of happiness and self fulfilment.

Removing the open doors, sends the wrong idea whilst it also incidentally helps to cover abuse in forced marriages and may block impediments not identified in preliminaries to surface - even if it is at the last minute.

Open doors helps to reinforce the idea of the public function of marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Generally people can have their parties wherever they want. Marriage is a solemn event that should be protected for the benefit of all.

Anything that removes weight from this commitment should be discouraged.

Please share your views below:

There should be caution. It is more about the seriousness of the occasion rather than the building itself. It may be better to limit the buildings and have people applying for exceptions provided they have a good reason for that.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As public as possible.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they have an authorisation to use the building.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil Registrar and Churches. Exceptions to be dealt case by case.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is very vague.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil Registrar and Churches.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If a civil ceremony, the Civil Registrar, Churches otherwise.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Mother or Father

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided is on top of existing arrangements

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I do not see same-sex marriages as something the Government should have any interest in.

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be witnesses.

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It must be a public and official matter.

### Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There should be compassion and provisions for exceptions.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view. Why 12 months?

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No view.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No. Go to the Registrar, sign the papers and the you can have your party anywhere else.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No view

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe the current law is appropriate and it does not prevent people from getting married. We have seen the rate of marriage up from current level with the same law in place. It points to something beyond the law as an aspect of influence and preventing people from getting married.

It is the culture of cohabitation and the undermining of the importance of marriage and not the law.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

They seem reasonable and appropriate.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It may be a good thing to have more options but one should tread carefully not to undermine the seriousness of the commitment and its benefit to the social cohesiveness of our society. Every individual came from a "marriage" between a man and woman.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No view.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I disagree that if the matter is of public interest the Government should encourage and regulate it only if to the collective's advantage.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No view

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

If anything it seems to be higher.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8D-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:55:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage was traditional and recognised

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not applicable

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

NA

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

none

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

no experience

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement is there for a reason. Don't change it.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

keep it at 7 days

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

must be in person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

keep it as it is

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

preferably not

Consultation Question 13:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't see why

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

keep it as it is

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This seems sensible

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

agreed

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An anglican minister should be able to do this

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

probably

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It depends what is recognised as a religious organisation!

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

probably, but I'm not sure I would trust government to produce such a list!

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This is too vague

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Who decides what is unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.  
I do not trust the government!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

not sure - probably

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who does the training?  
I have a deep distrust of government messing with marriage!!!!

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

not sure

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is too vague.

Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage, but you do need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests,

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

although the office seems to have too many powers...

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

maybe should be reviewed rather than lapse. Who defines the CPD?

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

There should still be public declarations as they are foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

The proposal risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.

It is not too much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

- The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is far too vague and could be quite meaningless.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a serious problem in our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

detracts from seriousness and solemnity

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Outdoors in say a Forest Church sounds reasonable

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

within limits

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But far too vague

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should state mother or father. Saying "parent" is stupid.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who defines the higher level?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

1,2 and 3 seem sensible.

No reputable religious organisation would opt in!

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1 seems sensible, 2 and 3 could be suspect

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I don't know anything about these laws

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

unsure

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I thought ships captains could conduct weddings anyway...

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

ditto

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

no idea

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

too many questions!

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:



Marriage has been around far longer than our system of government, and deserves far more respect. I would not vote for any government that messes around with marriage.

I suspect that changes made in the last few decades have done nothing to encourage marriage, and have probably brought the institution into disrepute

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no particular views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Can't see much benefit in the proposals.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAG-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:58:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicable

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least a month otherwise the seriousness of the commitment is undermined

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No- interviews should not take place remotely unless Covid rules so dictate

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Most definitely should. Otherwise the marriage procedure is in danger of being trivialised.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The changing civil procedures are in danger of radically changing the whole basis of weddings as we know and need them

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Whereas I am a practising Christian, I believe that non-religious people such as Humanists should have the legal right to a ceremony which reflects their own convictions as long as they take their vows as serious and binding

However, my charity does not extend to groups such as Satanists and Witches (whether 'white' or otherwise)

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree but I have no idea what is behind this question in terms of detail

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think fees should be limited

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure I understand this question

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise what on earth is the point of it all?

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends on the guidance

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure. This power could be misused.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As 38 above

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFY6-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 10:59:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Spring Road Evangelical Church, Sholing, Southampton

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would prevent us performing what is a treasured and valued role amongst the constituency we serve. We have married many attendees, some of who are members of the church, some of who are not.

We and they have rejoiced to hold what is a serious, joyful and meaningful ceremony and to be able to have their marriage vows said before the church friends and family. We rely on a registrar to attend as we have no means of performing this function ourselves.

If we had to take responsibility for this role, we fear our lack of training and experience, could mean that we fall foul of marriage law. We have greatly appreciated the kind help, support and advice of our local registrar on many occasions.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This idea undermines the seriousness of marriage in that anyone can be nominated to a role from any religious or secular body, to perform that which was previously seen as being so important that an official of the state needed to be involved.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a danger that marriage will become trivialised even further.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

What is the definition of public morality? This is too subjective. We have seen views on all manner of moral issues shift in recent years. If a church holds to a traditional view of marriage, will it eventually be penalised and forbidden access to marriage services, because it holds to a traditional view. This would amount to a form of persecution.

To remove such a subjective view, which could be interpreted differently by succeeding Governments, surely stronger criteria should be adhered to such as organisations that encourage violence and non-democratic methods.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would open the door to all manner of innovation and novelty in marriage ceremonies. The result would be, no doubt, the increasing trivialisation of the marriage ceremony and so marriage itself.

Those who applied to be independent officiants would often wish to offer new and more unusual types of wedding ceremonies, so as to gain business. Those who wish to conduct ceremonies whilst "sky diving", underwater or as Halloween characters, can still do so, but cannot have such ceremonies recognised as legally binding. This is how it should remain.

Marriage is a solemn and serious commitment that should not be trivialised and sent up as something akin to a joke.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some organisations would have a very wide view as to who is fit and proper and who thus should be put forward.

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will result in all sorts of novelty being proposed by the independent officiants, so as to gain business, and thus trivialising marriage.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This will not be possible if officiants are allowed to perform all manner of ceremonies in all manner of venues.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We see these prescribed words as essential. They undergird the seriousness of marriage and show publicly how serious a matter marriage is. Again, this is another proposal which wants to relegate the esteem in which marriage should be held. These prescribed words form but a small part of the marriage ceremony. Those we have married have never quibbled at them and have rejoiced to give a public witness as to the veracity of their vows. Why is there any need to change this?

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many would wish to introduce all manner of novelty and even extreme content into the ceremony, possibly even extreme forms of sexual expression and behaviour. This again would trivialise marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All should be able to come and witness the joyous and affirming declaration of the wedding couple. Society as a whole should be allowed and also made aware of the vital role and blessing marriage is in our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again there is a great danger here, that things will become trivial. It should remain that venues must be registered, so that extreme and frivolous ceremonies are avoided. Marriage is a serious and lifelong commitment. It seems incongruous that such a commitment could be made whilst water-skiing, sky diving or paragliding, which is what some have done, whilst holding non-recognised ceremonies.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A proper marriage ceremony should have a public profile.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some venues will not be consistent with the seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who is to say what dignified is. Some believe that getting married in fancy dress, whilst wing walking is dignified.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This guidance will have to make a stand as to why a place is or is not dignified, so as to maintain some semblance of seriousness to the marriage ceremony. Why is the law society proposing these changes, when what we have now does this anyway? This again opens the door to trivialisation.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We have never found that the current law discourages marriage. Trivialising marriage will not help increase the number of those who marry, but just undermine the seriousness of it.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We are delighted to see couples marry in a serious and joyful ceremony, where couples acknowledge their responsibilities and the blessings of marriage before God. We have never found the cost of the marriage service (which in our case is very little) hinder folk from marrying. It is more the cost of the reception that incurs greater financial outlay.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAP-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:01:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am legally married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Disagree. Marriage is too big and important a commitment

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.
- Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.
- This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.
- There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.
- It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.
- The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- A marriage ceremony should be both serious and solemn. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.
- The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.
- Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy' themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

- A marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn event. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.
- There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.
- This question considers having ceremonies “in the air”, meaning the safe and dignified test doesn’t seem too hard to meet. Would weddings also be allowed in McDonald’s?
- Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It's incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFY7-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:05:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our daughter was able to get married - legally - during the COVID 19 Pandemic by complying with the regulations and restrictions in place at the time.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no purpose for this proposal

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Now this is logical and a sensible approach

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense - not rushing things forward without good reason

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person interviews should always be required - not just in certain cases

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, publish in both churches

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes this is logical

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for separate civil preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If for example, the church minister de t resides should be ill or otherwise incapacitated, the Registration officer could officiate.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why would there be any need for more than one?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment - very worthy of dignity and solemnity

It is not simply a matter of the officiant acting in a 'dignified and solemn' manner but also ensuring the dignity and solemnity of the whole ceremony.

What do the terms 'dignity and solemnity' really mean? There have been some weird suggestions of weddings in strange settings and locations. Is 'anything goes' dignified and solemn?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is good

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Bearing question 35 in mind

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing that they maintain the requirements of their organisation and the registry office

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need to remove the declaration of 'no impediments' spoken during the ceremony.

It is already possible for couples to have some choice of ceremony words but it is neither dignified nor solemn to go down the route of 'designer weddings' with whatever words the couple may like.

Yes, it is 'their day' but it is also a significant legal ceremony that is part of our way of life as a society - with all the ensuing implications, rights and responsibilities.

Your proposals - signing declarations but not needing to speak them - almost seem to suggest a business transaction scenario like a house conveyance, without even needing to be present at the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious matter

Yes, it is 'their day' but it is also a significant legal ceremony that is part of our way of life as a society - with all the ensuing implications, rights and responsibilities.

If it is 'open season' for weddings - anyway, anywhere, anyhow it is likely that dignity and solemnity will be vanishing concepts

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of religious identity and expression in public life.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' principle is a good one making it clear that a ceremony recognised by law is taking place - not secretly, not by coercion but freely entered into by each person.

Wedding are a public act of commitment and celebration.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There may well be some 'far out' 'fun' ideas about marriage locations but where do you draw the line if you want to retain the principles of dignity and solemnity? Are we reducing marriage to a 'party'.

It should surely be possible to sensibly licence venues for particular reasons without 'opening the flood gates' e.g. KFC wedding? Wing walking wedding?

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But you need to define what you mean by 'safe' and 'dignified'. These terms could be widely interpreted!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Now that is sensible

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Registration office and officiants  
Routine assessments

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAV-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:05:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm divorced

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

This year one of my nieces got married. It was in 2 parts

1 registry office with 4 family members from each side 2. Ceremony in a non-church location with 6 family members from each side, total of 30 present.

I would like to have attended but quaranting for travellers from abroad had begun.

The location lent appropriately to the dignity of the situation but the homily was based too much on the happiness of the couple (not a bad thing in itself of course) rather than the commitment involved.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The notion of consent is the key here.

It's far too open to allow no oral participation from the couple on this point. Or even allow the absence of one member.

When the form of words is personalised more freely than at present, choice takes precedence over the seriousness of the commitment.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Certain elements should remain. These express the objective reality of a commitment in the eyes of society and the law.

When the form of a ceremony is down to personal choice, the notion of 'take it or leave it' is already part of the couple's marriage.

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A location needs to uphold the dignity of the occasion. Certain places cannot be interpreted as contributing to this.

Dignity has to do with the objective seriousness of the commitment. Extremes in personal choice are about the 'Me culture'.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

It should not be allowed in these locations. An outdoors location can potentially contribute to the dignity of the occasion - the garden of a country house / community centre (not a garden centre though !)

The others will by their nature be about a personal statement. Or taken to the extreme a novelty consumerist idea.

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYJ-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:08:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a period of notice to allow for objection.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

in the absence of any reason for urgency, there should always be a reasonable period of notice

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Any such organisation should be excluded if it promotes unlawful or immoral purposes but without a definition of 'public policy', this clause could give rise to problems.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but only provided that the form and ceremony do not detract or diminish the dignity of marriage

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

History of the traditional marriage ceremony and its legal requirements shows its effectiveness when compared to sham marriages and where there are no requirements.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The location should not detract from the dignity of the marriage as a serious and binding publicly witnessed ceremony.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YD3W-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:08:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Member of the public; Reader in Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have not attended any weddings during the pandemic.

Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is meant to be a permanent arrangement. Making it easier for transient member of the public to enter into marriage contracts is step towards devaluing marriage. It also means that someone can come in from abroad, possibly clandestinely, and at short notice, and get married. It would also make it easier for forced arranged marriages to take place.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public relationship, affecting others in society. Any attempt to remove the public nature of the arrangement will make it easier for forced marriages to take place.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that seven days is an absolute minimum, and if the couple involved are serious about marriage more time and preparation should have been given than just one week!

Reducing the minimum period is setting couple up for what is assumed to be a less permanent relationship. The ideal for marriage should be lifelong, therefore a couple (and their families) should be taking a significant amount of time to think it through in advance.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is above all a personal relationship. To consider interviews being done remotely makes the assumption that personal interaction between the couple and other people is not important. Marriage is a public relationship, therefore the arrangements for it should be in the real world, rather than carried out remotely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, notice should continue to be given outside England and Wales, if one of the couple is resident in another country. As I said above, this is a public relationship and all notice of it should be in the public domain, including those place where one of the couple is resident outside England and Wales.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Notices of marriage should be publicly displayed both in hard copy and in public, as well as online.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable, given the amount of time some couples take to get the arrangements and finance together to set up home and organise the ceremony.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not sure about this as I do not know what the current practice is.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable.

Please share your views below:

I think that, once arrangements have been made, a substitute officiant should only be used if the original officiant is prevented by death, serious illness or an unavoidable delay -one which might have entailed putting off the ceremony from the day stipulated.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need to change current practice in this respect.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This question is muddling and unclear. It needs further clarification.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I believe that publishing the banns in the church where the wedding is to take place maintains the practice of making the marriage public to the whole community. Marriage is a public relationship, rooted in the community, and even if the couple are now living in other places, it is important that the community where the wedding is to take place know of the event.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, documentary evidence is important. No one celebrating an Anglican wedding should be put in the position of celebrating a wedding where the documentary evidence is lacking, otherwise they might find themselves having celebrated an invalid wedding!

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should be required to attend such meetings and make a declaration that there is no impediment to their marriage. Openness and honesty are critical to the success of marriage. Allowing either of the couple not to attend would open the door to a lack of clarity and honesty in the proceedings.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries. There is no good reason not to change current practice.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties should have freely and publicly expressed consent to the marriage.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This does not seem clear. Does this imply that registration officers could officiate at religious ceremonies? Does it imply that ordained and licensed priests could not ratify religious weddings.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There seems no need to have more than one.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I thought they were already ...

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

That seems reasonable .

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does this mean 20 members in total in the whole country? If so, it seems very unwise, as almost any small quasi religious/secular group could set it self up to perform marriages.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

'Public policy or morality' is a very loose term, and difficult to define.

If an organisation's purposes are 'unlawful' as tested by case law and statute then it probably is best to exclude that organisation.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This is quite tricky. What offices, outside those of 'priest' or 'minister' in a recognised church, would be nominated? ( Priests / ministers would normally have gone through a significant amount of training before being registered. Can we be sure that an officiant of another organisation, religious or secular, would have received adequate training?)

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, such lists must be in the public domain.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants must have undergone suitable training - see above question 26.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

While officiant should go into this a form of public service, there should be adequate remuneration in respect of the officiant's time.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limits, otherwise it could be turned into a 'for profit' business.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

These terms need to be expanded and made clearer. Above all, the importance and seriousness of the commitment of marriage should not be watered down. Marriage must be seen as a commitment which requires an assent of the will to maintain the relationship not just for a while, but for life.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible and essential.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this seems sensible.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like a sensible safeguard.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems like a sensible safeguard.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what this means. Does it mean that once someone is authorised they are authorised for life? No retirement age? What if someone becomes unable by virtue of age related illness or mental disability?

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

' CPD' for this seems a bit strange. It isn't a skill or profession in the same way as teaching, medicine or law.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1.a. The parties should be required to express their consent to be married to each other orally. There has to be a public declaration of commitment. (I realise that in exceptional circumstances, a party might be limited by disability from making a public oral declaration, but the standard of making on public declaration orally should not be watered down. 1.b. The parties must both declare publicly, at the ceremony, that there is no impediment to their marrying. 2. If 1.b is maintained then there should be no need for the proposal in 2. An agreed set form of words from religious or non-religious organisations should be the agreed framework - couples do already have the flexibility within the set order to add to it according to their wishes. Merely personalising the ceremony according to the whims or wishes of the couple diminishes the public seriousness of the commitment.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest to see that. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple want it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a view of marriage which implies that a couple can do what they like, and it could lead to the erosion of the serious nature of the commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican weddings need to comply with legal requirements as the C of E is established by law. This presumably does not apply to Quaker or Jewish ceremonies.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible and appropriate.

Please share your views below:

Vows to acknowledge that the marriage is made in the sight of God as well as the registrar, that the marriage is made for life would be appropriate if the couple requested.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see the purpose of this proposal. What material difference does it make?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not. Marriage is a public undertaking, not just a private contract. It affects the families concerned and wider society. Obviously where there has been a family disagreement over the marriage it can be divisive, but that in no way diminishes the need for the marriage to be public.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Part of the requirement for specific places to be registered for weddings is to safeguard the public nature of the relationship. There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but such changes must be made only in exceptional circumstances.

Please share your views below:

The implication behind the idea here is that 'any old place' will do. This undermines the significance and importance of marriage.

The venue should be continue to be a registered public place, which is accessible to all. Otherwise we will be facing the idea of ceremonies in balloons, light aircraft, rowing boats etc. It makes a mockery of the importance of the decision and commitment.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not. As stated in previous answers, marriage s an important public commitment. It should take place in venues which are accessible to all.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is clearly a contradiction in terms for a non-religious wedding to take place in religious building.

The religion concerned needs to be able to retain control over the arrangement and wording of any ceremony in its premises.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:



As stated earlier , the location of a wedding should only be in an appropriately licensed venue.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

At the very least. This is a a vague proposal which needs elucidating.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Safety and dignity are important. But recognised registered locations are already such aren't they?

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible, but a registered location is presumable that already?

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible plan.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

While paper registration has its drawbacks, electronic registration is in my opinion too vulnerable security wise, and too easy to forge.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes these proposals seem sensible on all counts, as they preserve people's integrity and freedom of conscience.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with points 1 and 3, but believe that as a public ceremony there have to be witnesses.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These measures seem reasonable.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, these seem sensible measures.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am confused by this. While I have heard of the term 'common law marriage' I thought that this was not regarded as a presumption, socially or legally.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have a strong opinion either way on this.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this is clearly necessary to protect the integrity of the state and and the institution of marriage.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no immediate experience of any of these areas, so don't feel able to comment.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, because I believe that this is still marriage and should be treated the same as other marriages.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is an area I do not know about, but it seems a reasonable proposal.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Assuming that this is the same as for other marriages, yes, it seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think the same applies here as to question 65.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am uneasy about the plans suggested in 2,3 and 4. I can see that there might be circumstance where it would be compassionate to allow preliminaries to take place remotely, but it looks like a first step towards allowing these to happen remotely for all other weddings. This would detract from the personal nature of the whole process.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

'Yes' to provision 1 in Q 67, but an unequivocal 'no' to 2, 3, and 4, for the reasons stated above.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, my opinions about provisions 2, 3 and 4 remain the same. No measures should detract from the seriousness of the commitment to marriage, even if one party is close to death.

There is a degree of protection needed for the wider families of those involved, as rushed marriages of this kind could have an effect on the property provisions of a 'soon to be deceased' party.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe any loosening of the locations where marriages can take place will make it easier for marriages to take place incognito, whereas I have stressed throughout my replies that marriage is a public statement about a new relationship within society.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am unclear about this. I understood that it was already possible for marriages to take place on board ship in international waters.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

My feeling about this and question 69 is that the laws of England and Wales should apply to areas within their territories, and not in international waters. I feel that loosening these requirements will open the system to abuse.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My attitude to this question is contained within the response to Q 70.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I understood that this was already the case.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I still consider that rules which apply to weddings on land should also apply to those conducted in international waters.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that marriage is still 'marriage', even in unusual circumstances and that provisions which attenuate the normal rules are a bad precedent.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This also seems reasonable.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage remains a serious commitment, and the costs should reflect that, and the extra time required of the registration officer.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe very strongly that marriage is good for society and for family life, that the outcomes for children brought up by married parents are generally better than for those brought up in other households.

However, making it 'easier' for couples to marry does not mean that stability of society and relationships will be automatically enhanced. I believe it is essential that any couple contemplating marriage should have to consider seriously the kind of commitment they are making.

Therefore I think the law should encourage people to think not how easy it is to get married, but but how serious a commitment it is.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I do not have enough (current) experience of the costs of marriage to make an informed comment on these points, except to say that anything which reduces the commitment required of couples to get married is liable to erode the status and the importance of marriage in general.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I do not know enough to comment on these points.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. I think hosting weddings should always require government pre-approval.
2. no comment.
3. I think that religious wedding should always take place in religious premises.
4. The assumption behind this idea is that weddings are primarily for business purposes is pretty cheap!

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have o knowledge of this area.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Again, I have no knowledge or experience of this area, so do not feel able to comment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As above.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I do not feel able to comment on the costs issues.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFA9-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:09:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

widower after lawful 1968 marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The residence qualification is founded in good sense; weddings in places irrelevant to the participants are more likely to founder .

### Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remoteness increases the risk of forced and sham marriages

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 15:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Limits on fees are necessary

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the circumstances of weddings , their locations, their content, and their significance must be maintained by law and not left to officiants choices. Other proposals in this consultation undermine marriage as a solemn contract intended for lifelong union and these waterings of the dignity and solemnity of marriage must not be abetted. So officiants must be honouring a more demanding code of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are good underlying reasons for the present requirements and the proposals weaken the importance of a solemn lifelong contract. The law has always and for good reason provided for example that contracts in relation to land must take particular forms or be evidenced in writing. Deeds exist because of their importance to both the parties and to the public. What is being suggested is a watering down of what should in the interests of families, of children and of the State be solemn contracts built on sound principles of family solidity in good and bad times.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The State should stick to solemn process with defined requirements designed to underline the importance of the contract of marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above. It is for the State to set out not the desiderata of a marriage ceremony but the integral requirements.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be permitted but there is nothing wrong in principle in the combination of both civil and religious components. Indeed the segregation is logically artificial.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages behind closed doors should be prohibited because they should be seen to be free, unforced and be open to scrutiny for solemnity and validity.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

there is no evidence that the present law discourages marriage  
the proposals would encourage more unsound marriages by undermining their foundations. Marriages should be serious public contracts for life conducted with due solemnity and any of the above proposals which contradicts this precept will damage the institution and the families created as a result

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFY9-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:12:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicable

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No legal barriers

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not applicable

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are, in the UK, trafficked people, arranged marriages, etc

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Notice should always be in person to give any people under pressure to be recognised

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Why fix what is not broken?

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

In person only

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The liberal thinkers will always push boundaries

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It could be arranged that they are unavailable

Please share your views below:

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Are we expecting WW3 because of Brexit?

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The present rules should not be changed

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Good idea. Humanity is not becoming more moral

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Good idea. Humanity is not becoming more moral

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Keep the law as it is

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Q1 Yes

Q2 No

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Q1 Yes

Q2 No

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whose morals will set what dignity and solemnity of marriage means?

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes excluding Church and Synagogue weddings

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Churches and Synagogues would do that anyway

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present law should not be changed. This could be twisted to mean anything. 1b is not upholding dignity and solemnity

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is not upholding dignity and solemnity. Is expressing 66million individuals' views

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is nothing wrong with the present rules. If those to be married don't like it, they can go for a registry office marriage. It is important to realise that most marriages are not of members of those organisations, but are secular 'outsiders'.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They can have a religious blessing afterwards

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too many trafficked people and arranged marriages are still happening

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Specially designated places only. In a hot air balloon, in a cave, in a dinghy at sea. on the moon? No  
outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

See above. People will go for the more outrageous as possible

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious weddings in religious venues. Non religious weddings in non religious venues

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, for reasons given above and to stop pressure being put on officiants

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To whose moral standards?

No

Please expand on your answer:

It will get eroded

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Must have it in case of future issues

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is enough internet fraud already

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be 2 witnesses over the age of 18

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 b i & ii Failure of one or both parties

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consummation of the wedding and co habitation should remain a legal necessity except for death bed weddings

What is being described in Q59 is not marriage

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No views as I have not experience

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There will be the fanatics who want an outrageous idea

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This has been covered Q82

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It is not hard for anyone to get married in registry offices

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No views

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People should get married in their current country. Trafficking....

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People should get married in their current country. Trafficking....

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No views



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAJ-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:13:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding ceremony is a serious commitment on the part of couples to freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are undertaking.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony should reflect the seriousness and the couples solemn declaration to the public and state.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venues should not be inappropriate for the legal and significant ceremony to happen in a dignified manner.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8B-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:19:54

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that this protects marriage as a legal institution within England and Wales. It may also help protect people from forced marriage.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The parties should be required to express consent at the ceremony. It should not be possible for a person to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Signing the marriage schedule is inadequate without being present and giving consent at the ceremony.

The solemnity and seriousness of the wedding ceremony needs to be preserved; there is a need for the retention of the minimum declarations. There is already ample flexibility within the ceremony. The lifetime commitment should be agreed upon freely and overtly at the ceremony and the current prescribed phrases allow this.

The wedding ceremony is an important part of national society and, as such, should retain some standardisation.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest; the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony should be preserved. There is already the possibility for parties to express their individuality, faith or interests by partaking in unofficial ceremonies additional to the legal ceremony. This nation needs to preserve a dignified ceremony for marriage.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal would change the marriage ceremony from being very much a public declaration. A marriage ceremony should be public otherwise the societal nature of the declaration is diminished or eliminated; this should not be a private matter nor should there be the opportunity for coercion.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness and solemnity of the marriage ceremony should be reflected in the choices for venue. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate settings to hold such a significant ceremony. Wedding ceremonies should take place in publicly accessible venues.

Please share your views below:

The venue needs to be accessible to the public to maintain the societal importance of the ceremony. Private venues mean private ceremonies with the risk of coercion. Ceremonies whilst in flight or at sea are not accessible to the public and become private ceremonies with the risk of coercion and loss of the dignity, seriousness and solemnity of the occasion.

What does 'in the air' mean? Do the participants need to be 'in the air' or does this just mean that this happens somewhere, somehow (e.g. on the internet, on the phone, or shouted across the street)?

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue needs to be accessible to the public to maintain the societal importance of the ceremony. Private venues mean private ceremonies with the risk of coercion. Ceremonies whilst in flight or at sea are not accessible to the public and become private ceremonies with the risk of coercion and loss of the dignity, seriousness and solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law encourages couples to take marriage seriously and offers the couple a dignified and solemn ceremony to reflect this and safeguards against coercion.

Many of the changes proposed would allow for unsafe, undignified, private ceremonies and encourage a more frivolous and less sincere attitude to entering legal, lifelong marriage.

The people of England and Wales need the marriage ceremony to be protected in its public, dignified and solemn state to reflect the importance of marriage as part of the backbone of this society.

The people of England and Wales and future immigrants should be protected against coercion into marriage. These proposals threaten to significantly reduce protection to individuals.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of weddings in the UK have become unbelievably high. But the exorbitant costs are not that of the formal ceremony but of the celebrations chosen by parties following the ceremony.

Perhaps there should be 'financial allowances' for parties where it is substantiated that finances are inhibiting a formal wedding ceremony. Parties that want to enter a legal, lifelong marriage, should not be inhibited by not being able to afford the legal ceremony, including at a place of worship. I believe many places of worship would be willing to give such parties a ceremony at no or little cost.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF81-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:21:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

null

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing they meet all legal requirements

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Appropriate checks need to be made

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A reasonable time to prepare/reflect

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Providing appropriate protection is afforded

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is in the public domain

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible timescale

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes needs to be an authorised person

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible

Please share your views below:

Exceptions should be restricted to reduce risk of unlawful marriage

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Would respect the views of the relevant Churches on this

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sadly we still have a potential risk of war damage

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Would respect the views of the Anglican Church on this

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes as it is being done in the Name of God

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Would respect the views of the Anglican Church on this

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing they are suitably authorised/qualified

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Part of their training

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that by nature is clearly inappropriate

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes providing lawful process is ensured

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

to maintain good order

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing appropriate scrutiny is applied

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful and appropriate process must be ensured

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured that is not related to unfair exploitation

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But guidance on reasonable fees should be included

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reduces risk of not taking marriage seriously

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. Marriage is meant to be a lifetime commitment and as such is one of the most important decisions any person will ever make with potentially huge personal/emotional/financial/family/societal consequences. and so the gravity of the commitment needs to be strongly emphasised. Would recommend that the definition of dignity and solemnity needs to be made clearer.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But General Register Office must also monitor

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured



Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to appropriate monitoring

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Lawful process must be ensured

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is already wide flexibility in the ceremony but this would allow far too much opportunity for inappropriate formats and (inadvertently) might encourage couples to take marriage less seriously. It is vital to ensure the couple is physically present and fully engaged in a commitment that must be appropriately defined by Law and has enormous consequences for themselves their families and society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As a Biology Graduate I cannot emphasise enough the overwhelming sociological/biological evidence of the benefits to the mental, physical, emotional, financial and social wellbeing of both parties, their offspring and society afforded by 'lifetime pair-bonding' i.e. marriage. It is therefore critically important that as a society we do all we can to reinforce the empirical data by emphasising the established reality and thereby encouraging participants in marriage to understand its huge benefits when the lifetime marriage commitment is taken seriously and in good faith by both parties. There is an enormous risk that if any type of ceremony is allowed, further trivialisation of marriage will become inevitable.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing due legal process is followed

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In an appropriate format this should be encouraged if the couple ask for it

Please share your views below:

Appropriate faith-based Hymns, songs, poems and readings from Bible (and other religious texts) etc.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of choice should be maintained

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This will increase the risk of forced marriage which remains a serious problem in the UK. Marriage should be seen to be a commitment to be celebrated in the public domain

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any venue should be of the appropriate size, be dignified and safe and comply with Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 and reflect the seriousness of the commitment being made.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a public commitment.. Any venue should be of the appropriate size, easily accessible to the public, dignified and safe and comply with Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 and reflect the seriousness of the commitment being made. Difficult to see how 'in the air' or 'on inland water's would meet these requirements and may exclude some through aquaphobia and aerophobia and be unsafe especially for children/elderly/disabled.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public commitment. Any venue should be of the appropriate size, easily accessible to the public, dignified and safe and comply with Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 and reflect the seriousness of the commitment being made.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public commitment. Any venue should be of the appropriate size, easily accessible to the public, dignified and safe and comply with Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 and reflect the seriousness of the commitment being made. Providing the building meets these criteria it should be allowed.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public commitment. Any venue should be of the appropriate size, easily accessible to the public, dignified and safe and comply with Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010 and reflect the seriousness of the commitment being made. The definition of 'appropriate size, easily accessible to the public, dignified and safe and comply with Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010' should be defined by Law and the officiant held responsible to ensure the legal requirements are fulfilled.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safe and dignified should be clearly defined by Law and the officiant held responsible to ensure the legal requirements are fulfilled.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safe and dignified should be clearly defined by Law and the GRO guidance should include safeguards to ensure the location meets these criteria and are suitable to reflect the significance of marriage.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds a practical measure

Please share your views below:

Trained and certified appointees of General Register Office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Will help to confirm identities and reduce risk of fraud/forced marriage

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

language preferences should be respected

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing infrastructure is in place to provide a high level of security.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Law should be clear and enforced

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing mistake is demonstrably genuine

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Law should be clear and enforced

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Law should be clear and enforced but with appropriate provision for annulment

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Law should be clear and enforced

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Appropriate provision for annulment need not be limited to 3 years

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Law should be clear and enforced

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not aware of any

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legal requirements should apply but be applied with compassion

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems appropriate

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Seems appropriate

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In specific circumstances only e.g. pandemic

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be fair and equitably applied

No

Please expand on your answer:

Clinical opinion should be sought

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing location safe and dignified and legally compliant

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing location safe and dignified and legally compliant

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Providing location safe and dignified and legally compliant

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No special provisions should be made

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing officiant is legally compliant

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing legally compliant

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Law should be clear and enforced

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Law should be clear and enforced

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Set at an affordable level so as not to discriminate

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cost should not drive the criteria. It should be based on ensuring the location and ceremony is safe and dignified

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Cost should not drive the criteria. It should be based on ensuring the location and ceremony is safe and dignified

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Cost should not drive the criteria. It should be based on ensuring the location and ceremony is safe and dignified



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFA1-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:25:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

I did not come across legal barriers. The term barriers is a leading and unhelpful term.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Gives a cooling off period and time for reflection before the marriage. Also provides a sense of stability if they already live there

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Am not aware that people do not have access to local registration.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least a month. Shows they have considered it and not rushed it. We appear to be moving to an instant wish society where the need for considered reflection and time are sidelined.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Prefer face to face to lessen risk of sham marriages

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No. Current rules lessen likelihood of sham marriages

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree to the above

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Jedi

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Jedi 'followers' might meet the above criteria

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In this context a time limit increases likelihood of self scrutiny

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No air balloon weddings please. Great for a day out but not for a life commitment to marriage

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of 1) and 2) should not be a reason for these proposals

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have never heard people complain about the cost of the Registrar or church

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8Y-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:33:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Prefer all in person interviews

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree that both of the couple should make a separate declaration that there is no impediment to their marriage so that a common licence can be granted to authorise an Anglican wedding.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I believe great care should be taken if this is undertaken, Some Anglican churches already hold views and beliefs that are contrary to currently held view on public morality (e.g. whether or not same sex partners should marry). Public policy and public morality change and should not be the only yardstick for the law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be limits on fees charged related to costs involved.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should also ensure that the content of the ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be public declaration considered to be foundational to legal marriage. If not, couples would be able to say anything they like or perhaps nothing at all.

I do not believe couple should be able to completely personalise their wedding ceremony. A wedding is not just about the couple. It is a union which is understood by society and should be legally defined.

There should be some publicly agreed proscribed words which should be kept to a minimum and then couples can add to them as they wish.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not just a little event between two people who agree to say whatever they like. It is a publicly recognised institution that the community, society and state have an interest. It needs to reflect the seriousness of the commitments being made

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Conducting a marriage behind closed doors gives a wrong perception that marriage a private rather than public affair.

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society.

A publicly recognised institution needs to be open to the public.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The importance of the ceremony should be reflected in the appropriate places where they are to be held. Some places are inappropriate such as a shopping precinct or multi-gym.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public declarations should be publicly accessible

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be general guidelines from the General Register Office as to the appropriateness of venues. There should be some ability for officiants to be able to refer any request to the General Register Office.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not simply be allowed because they are safe and dignified and because marrying couples want them, but also because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe there should be witnesses to a marriage

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFY2-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:34:20

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

None

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

am single but take any marriage seriously as it is a public commitment to each other and a promise to keep the vows life long.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People should be required to marry within a registration district where they are living for at least 7 days before the ceremony. This means they are known locally and any impediments or difficulties can be declared. To ignore this weakens marriage and could allow an enforced or bigamous marriage to take place.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Face to face personal interview is essential to decide whether this is genuine marriage or not. A bogus marriage for citizenship could be done on line and allowed if not properly interviewed and checked.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

seven days seems sensible.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No remote interviews. They must be done in person by the couple concerned to assess whether it is a sham or bogus marriage and also whether consent is given knowingly and freely.

One remembers the BBC documentary about a man in Glasgow taking a woman friend to the Registry office after getting all her family details and SHE WAS UNAWARE this was a ploy to marry her. The police got involved as they knew about him.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes providing the couple are also privately and safely interviewed to ensure consent and safety.

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing it is Church wedding if the couple wish, and all vows are taken seriously.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Very definitely yes. There are cases where people marry in Church so as to get a nice photo and nice service BUT DO NOT TAKE THEIR VOWS SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. For the sake of both of them. No illegal marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Catholics will want a proper Catholic wedding. For non Anglican Weddings or other denominational weddings, a marriage in the Registry Office should be followed by a Christian ceremony in their own Church if requested

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very strongly. To exclude any of the three reduces marriage to a party game with no serious commitment to life long love and keeping the vows.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For civil weddings, yes. For Church Weddings a specific person may be legally nominated to officiate; or the building is legalised for the Marriage and the Registration Officer attends as a witness to ensure all legal requirements are met.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One should be sufficient.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing it is a civil wedding in non-Church premises. A humanist wedding should be in a secular building.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Background checks and Police checks etc as anyone could be appointed otherwise. We do not need shady and unsuitable persons officiating at dubious weddings.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

these would be the minimum requirements.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We do not need [REDACTED] people making a profit out of "I will do you a really nice wedding".

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Examine the situation first. There must be NO conflict of interest. HOWEVER THERE SHOULD BE A NATIONAL TARIFF OF FEES TO PREVENT OVER CHARGING.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes and ensure the couple do understand this is meant to be a life long commitment and not used as a step to quickie divorce unless there is harm or danger from their partner.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing it does not conflict with genuine religious belief of the couple. Will there be strict guidance on the exact age of the couple to prevent child marriages; and forced marriages where the woman is compelled to marry a man she does not want.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where the Organisation is scrupulously honest and has the legal power and legal teeth to investigate and act.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Generally yes. However, people who respect traditional marriage and cannot in belief or conscience marry a same sex couple MUST NOT BE PENALISED OR DISMISSED FROM SERVICE. That would be religious discrimination contrary to the Human Rights Act and other legislation. .

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but monitor their performance to ensure they keep up to standard.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, monitor their performance every few years to ensure they keep to standard.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. there should be a very clear oral answer from both parties during the ceremony, otherwise the idea of consent is meaningless. They should be required to declare again that there is no impediment to their marriage. [REDACTED]

All weddings civil and other must use a form of words during the ceremony to confirm consent and availability to marry. Otherwise the ceremony is meaningless and is trivialised.

This is a very important event in the life of two people and must not be watered down or trivialised. Future children will need a couple committed to each other and to them as they knew what they wanted.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

It may be that the couple are both divorced and have to have a civil ceremony, they may ask for religious content on the understanding that if sincere they could have a Church Blessing afterwards. .

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As said before some people may need to have a civil ceremony followed by some sort of religious service. Let free choice be permitted.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Do not repeal. Marriage is a public ceremony of public commitment to each other before witnesses. Public access of non troublesome people should be allowed.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a public and serious ceremony and should not or sea diving weddings be trivialised or people will want bungee jump weddings or paragliding weddings to give extra excitement and spectacular photos.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

no inland water weddings or in the air weddings as it loses the sense of commitment to each other and glamorises another activity. It turns a wedding into a film set for Hollywood Glamour. Question of health and safety issues also.

Perhaps somewhere in a park where the commitment to each other is not distracted from, similarly in a private home.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It sound sensible providing an objective decision is made, eg re health and safety.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

within the limits of answer 48 plus definite public oral answer by the couple to confirm are free and willing to marry.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as in above answer.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

very strongly.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Traditional Heterosexual Marriage has been around for several millenia and been the cornerstone of society and the upbringing of children. We should treasure the commitment of marriage and the dignity of the ceremony and not weaken it in any way.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAK-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:38:29

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Bespoke Ceremonies

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Consultation Question 89:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYQ-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:39:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What does 'risk of harm' mean? Could it mean anything at all? This needs to be defined carefully.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? If the parties have chosen a church wedding why should not banns be called?

For some couples, this is an important part of their preparation and anticipation of their ceremony. It is also a public statement of intent. That marriage is a public ceremony is important.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published in the home churches of the two parties.



Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both. If the minister is acting as the registrar, he or she should be able to call for documentary evidence.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

A declaration is vital, but need this be done in person?

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

In view of the seriousness of marriage, and the ceremony, it is important that the type of organisation should reflect that. Marriage would be trivialised by allowing sports' clubs, restaurants, or any ad hoc organisations to officiate at weddings.  
The organisation should be non-commercial.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

20 sounds rather small.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Your question needs to be clearer. What exactly does 'contrary to public policy or morality' mean?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What vetting procedure would there be for such individuals? Could anyone apply?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is very important.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees need to be decided on centrally for all officiants. Fees should be kept to a minimum so that there is no barrier to marriage.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but what exactly does that mean? The form of words used and the venue both come under that umbrella. Would a wedding be allowed in a supermarket or a nightclub? Much more thought needs to go into 'dignity and solemnity' both of which are very important.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This also needs to include rules about the venue.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

That is OK to start with, but if the organisation has only 20 members (see your question 25 above) all sorts of problems could ensue. There needs to be central oversight as well.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What about a situation where the officiant has moral or spiritual scruples about the couple?

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What about a situation where the officiant has moral or spiritual scruples about the couple?

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1 (a) Why not orally? Only if one of the persons to be married has an impediment.

This is a public and legal ceremony, and couples must make it absolutely clear to those gathered that they are entering into a serious relationship. This is meant to be for life. Couples should not be able to tailor the ceremony to whatever they want

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If your proposal was agreed, what would marriage become? There needs to be a core form of words and expectations common to all ceremonies which states the importance of marriage not just to the couples, but in law and in wider society, too.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not just a private act between two people, but a public declaration to friends and wider society that the union into which they are entering is a lifelong, serious business.

Would not 'private' weddings allow for forced marriages?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Come on, this is open to all sorts of abuse! A toilet? Burger King? Venues need to be legally authorised. Outdoor venues should be allowed providing they are open to the public and sensible - not a mountain top or a rowing boat, for example.

There may well be some advantages in widening the number and type of place where weddings are allowed, but only if the seriousness of marriage is upheld.

Please share your views below:

See my comments above.

'In the air' hardly seems public, nor do private homes.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage takes place within the context of wider society. It should be accessible to the public. It is an act among family and/or friends where the couple make promises to each other and the family/friends are witnesses.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Let there be no barrier to weddings if we think that marriage is important.

A Muslim and Hindu may not be able to be married in their mosque or temple but may want some religious element to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A centrally held list of venues should be kept.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with safe and dignified, but venues need to be appropriate, too.

A toilet? Burger King? Venues need to be legally authorised. Outdoor venues should be allowed providing they are open to the public and sensible - not a mountain top or a rowing boat, for example.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is probably not enough, and would be open to interpretation.

A centrally held list of venues would overcome this problem.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps in addition to a hard copy.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses should be present. This is a public ceremony.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if these are public places (with public access) and subject to the regulations about type of venue above.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the provisos above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

This could easily be open to abuse. It also has the possibility of undermining the seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Could not a minister etc., known to the couple and with them on the ship be allowed to officiate?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Could not a minister etc., known to the couple and with them on the ship be allowed to officiate?

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFH7-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:41:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that simply signing the marriage certificate does not express a persons serious wish to be married if they are not there in person. This undermines the importance of marriage being face to face.

Due to there being already flexibility regarding marriage vows, as people can say what they wish when exchanging them, I feels that without the expression of marriage being orally made, this risks undermining the solemnity of marriage.

There is also a risk that these types of marriages are parodied. Marriage is not just about the two that come together, but the vows that they make that will influence their families and the possible children that will be birthed within that marriage. Thus, it must be entered soberly.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to highlight again that this trivializes marriage and its long term effect. I disagree that any form of marriage should be acceptable, as it would give people free rein wed in an inappropriate and frivolous manner, as has been seen already by some who get married in the ear or even under the sea.

This takes away the intent of marriage, to be entered into soberly and reverently, it being a life-long commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue of the marriage depicts the importance the couples place on the marriage itself. I would like to again reinforce my opinion that if couples wishing to marry can get married anywhere, this allows them to get married ANYWHERE. Should they really take their life-long vows on the bus, or worse still in Starbucks?

Please share your views below:

I think that marriage should be taken place in venues that highlight the sacredness of it.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYX-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:45:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a widow

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment to a couple and should not be rushed into.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So that the couple can understand the commitment they are making to each other and have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

If one of the marriage partners lives another area, it may be difficult for them.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If interviews are allowed remotely, how can the interviewer be sure that there is not someone in the background being a party to a forced marriage?

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

if these were displayed on line, how could you be sure that either of the couple are protected from harm?

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Only in the circumstances listed above

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think that is right.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think this is right.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, that is right.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings need to be recognised as a legal commitment.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches do not have an authorised person, especially if it is a small one and do not have weddings very often.

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There need to be witnesses.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If the organisation promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality, they should remain excluded from officiating at weddings, as they could be used by terrorists, for example.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a record of who is legally allowed to officiate at weddings.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If independent officiants are allowed, this could open the door to those who do not take marriage seriously and would undermine the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a safety precaution.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and should not be allowed to be hijacked by those wanting to make a profit from it.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a nation-wide standard fee.

Consultation Question 34:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, this leaves it open to abuse.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The authorised officiants should be reviewed periodically, as other professions have to prove their fitness to practise.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony must be taken seriously, with the solemn promises made verbally in front of witnesses , otherwise it could become too casual.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and legally binding. There should be a standard promise that the couple make to one another at the heart of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

If the couple are not able to marry in a church, then a religious content should be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the couple want it.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should only be permitted in locations where the ceremony is dignified and not where there are things which could detract from the seriousness of the occasion.

Please share your views below:

Only suitable venues, where there are no distractions.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHE-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:48:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYA-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:48:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married legally

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

They have been meaningful and happy occasions but the restraint of numbers attending diminished them somewhat.



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages in Britain are special and different and should not become a commodity. Residing here is part of their uniqueness.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All interviews should be in person to verify that the marriage will be 'authentic' and not forced.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Continue with current rules

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No other circumstances

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Existing rules suffice

### Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No - in the church where the wedding will take place and/or the parish church of residence of each party.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes a verified list is essential.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be an age limit of , say, 70

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Readings from the Bible or poetry which is overtly religious. Singing of hymns and other forms of religious music.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Licensed places only

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A body with legal status should approve.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Providing rules are followed - no problem

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Should not be permitted.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current laws do not prevent couples from marrying.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It costs money to facilitate a wedding and it is right and fair that the couple bear the cost.



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Our present system is fair and sensible.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No evidence.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs will not be significantly different.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHD-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:51:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can't see any reason for change.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can see no valid reason for changing what has been long established practice.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can see no reason to change existing practice.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a church or other registered property as it is now.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be accessible.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFA2-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:52:55

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The Methodist Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many places of worship do not have an authorised person in place. Under these proposals they would have to appoint and train one that may only be needed very occasionally. There is the danger that some churches will fall foul of unfamiliar marriage regulations and procedures in order to conduct marriages.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This sounds reasonable, but there are implicit dangers.

It could be seen as a means of penalising beliefs and moral views that are contrary to the prevailing cultural opinion. "contrary to public policy or morality" is too subjective an assessment.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We feel that marriages should be legally binding and to grant independent officiants authorisation could lead to the most outlandish types of ceremonies being given legal standing.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Without prescribed words, a marriage and its ceremony could become meaningless (since words express meaning). There could be no commitment made through solemn promises. The ceremony could be taken casually by all concerned. Allowing wholly personalised marriages would send the message that it is wholly personalised and private.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage(s) should continue to be open ceremonies contrary to wholly private affairs. Where else would there be provision for the question if anyone knows of any reason why these two should not be joined together?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There would be advantages to this provision for, say, churches that do not own their own buildings but use schools or community buildings. However, there needs to be more precise definition of what constitutes "dignified" and "safe" so as to exclude extremes that have been used for "unofficial" ceremonies. The proposals in following questions do not address this sufficiently and place too onerous a personal load on officiants.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8F-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:54:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I married in 1960 at The Catholic Church [REDACTED].  
My marriage is recognised by the law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment for life and needs some stability of time and thoughtfulness before commitment. Impulses to commit to marriage need to have time to be assessed seriously by both parties.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Time for serious thought about the importance and dignity of marriage is necessary.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There is no substitute for an in-person interview where the interviewer can assess the mental and physical state of the possibly vulnerable person.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I consider it should continue to be possible in the circumstances listed above

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided that the substitute officiant is suitably qualified

Please share your views below:

as above

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Both proposals seem excellent. Yes, I heartily agree.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I think this is very important.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see why you want to make Anglican weddings also have a separate civil preliminary.

I consider all weddings should be preceded by preliminaries conducted by a suitably qualified person (for example a Catholic priest.)

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Public policy and morality is so far out of touch with the Ten Commandments and the natural law that the dignity and solemnity of marriage has been seriously undermined over the last century.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The requirements of the ceremony itself, in the words of the vows, and the setting (ie Place and time), should be clearly laid out so that the seriousness, dignity and solemnity of the occasion are paramount.

A good definition of exactly what comprises dignity and solemnity should be included. Or possibly giving examples of what should not be permitted.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a public commitment, and a set formula, such as that in the Anglican and Catholic churches, is the time honoured way of expressing a lifelong commitment.

It must be heard in public, in order to give legal validity to the marriage, that each person declares there is no impediment and that their consent is freely given.

It must not be possible to be married without being present at the wedding ceremony.

It is because the family is the basic unit of a responsible society that public commitment is needed for stability for the upbringing of children.

Our present society has forgotten its duty and responsibility to its children and to society as a whole by behaving like animals in the area of sexual mores.

Without due thought and attention to lifelong commitment to the upbringing, mental and physical health, of the children, and the financial concerns of their own family and of society as a whole , then civilisation falls apart as history has shown us in the rise and fall of previous civilisations.

Marriage must not become a private personal matter, like a hobby to be changed at will.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage needs to be a formal legal statement for the good of the state and society as a whole. It needs to have a set formula of declarations for legal validity.

Anything else reduces the seriousness, dignity and solemnity of a lifelong commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Forced marriages are still a problem, it is most important to take every possible step to avoid them.

Public access and open doors should help to protect the vulnerable who might be coerced into a ceremony.

Marriage has public significance, it is not just a private arrangement and should not be seen as such.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony should be serious and dignified, stringent safe-guards need to be proposed or any sort of unsuitable venue could be suggested. People do not have to get married, they can opt for any sort of a relationship, but if they wish to marry it must be seen to be a legal, serious commitment.

Please share your views below:

I just want to reiterate that people can do what they want where they want within current legal limits but when it is a question of getting married this should be seen as a solemn and dignified occasion with legal validity and acknowledgement of and acceptance of financial and legal responsibility for any ensuing children. It should therefore be conducted in an appropriate place and the law should uphold this for the good of society as a whole.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the good of society as a whole and specifically for the avoidance of forced marriages it is important that the open-door rule is retained.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs more safeguards under the law. How would a venue be tested about their dignity and safety.

Why does the law need to be changed?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be in legally defined terms in writing, terms need to be very clearly defined and safeguards put in place.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems obviously necessary

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a legal commitment, witnesses and correct documentation should surely be needed for validity.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFH3-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 11:58:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Cudham and Downe Benefice, Orpington Deanery

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Kent

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

n/a

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The constantly changing rules have been difficult to negotiate. Churches are operating to capacity in a covid safe manner so it makes no sense for numbers to be further restricted for wedding ceremonies in places of worship.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Giving a free for all about where people can marry undermines local links.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed. Remote has made a lot of sense recently.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sometimes within a church setting the officiant may have to change at very short notice due to illness. This might prove difficult.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I cannot see why the name of the officiant needs to be given at all

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Can see no reason for this change. Banns should be valid wherever they are read.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1 yes

2 no

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

An Anglican wedding should include anglican preliminaries, with no civil preliminaries

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned that this might allow 'civil celebrants' to officiate at weddings claiming a secular world view, where in fact they are just offering a paid for service to anyone.

Please share your views below:

see above

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I strongly disagree. Who defines 'public morality'?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Forms and ceremonies within a religious setting should be written and agreed by the church, not by the parties.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Outdoors, and open to the public. Weddings should not become private.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All venues should be publicly accessible

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problems, system seems to work fine at present

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

weddings should be publicly accessible

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

see above

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

no comment

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHZ-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:03:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony



Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that someone who is not present at a marriage ceremony could be legally allowed to get married. Aside from the whole reduction of the solemnity of a marriage ceremony, there are issues of identity fraud and coercion that would be much easier to commit if the candidate is not required to be at the ceremony in person.

It appears from this that couples could decide not to make any public declaration at all. This appears to be downgrading marriage to something of a very different nature. Unlike the solemnity and legality of marriage, done publicly and as a societal institution, it appears to becoming trivial, individualistic, and with fewer legal parameters and safeguards. This is a travesty of what a marriage ceremony should be.

If this is what people want, why not leave marriage as it is, but create a new option that is has a different label?

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I have stated above, this will divorce marriage from society and state, becoming an individualistic and potentially trivialising event. It takes away the attention from the serious legal and public nature of the marriage vows, and highlights individual wishes and potentially imaginative excesses.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is another undermining of the public nature of marriage, and of the protection against forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue should only be allowed if it is an appropriate setting for a solemn, safe, dignified public ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs further clarification. Will there be a legal protocol about what a 'safe and dignified' venue is? A system whereby an individual official's opinion on this matter is acceptable, could mean that over time the permitted venues become broader and the notion of a solemn, serious, public and dignified marriage ceremony is undermined.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as this is in keeping with a solemn, serious, public and dignified ceremony.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFA6-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:07:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our daughter was not able to get married in May as scheduled due to pandemic restrictions [REDACTED]. She got married in July in a church according to the pandemic restrictions [REDACTED]. It seems to me the complete ban on weddings and then the severe restrictions were so

extremely out of proportion to the risk. No singing, try to just have one person (the minister) speak, no food and drink, such a small max number of people present, etc. Some other events and activities allowed to go on in the country with fewer restrictions seemed higher risk. We understood and could appreciate that 250-300 people should not gather and mingle unimpeded with food and drink and air molecules flowing every which way. As I've followed the guidance, comments by gov't leaders, etc. throughout the year I was struck by the "low view" of such a significant, sacred life event and building block of a stable society.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is well and good to state, but my concern is the definition of terms. If possible, "dignity and solemnity" should be elaborated on at least a bit. I and many other people have seen ceremonies indoor and outdoor, and brides and grooms wearing clothes/costumes, that do not communicate the standard definition of "dignity" and "solemnity."

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly couples should be present at the ceremony. The current requirements offer plenty of options and flexibility regarding personalising the ceremony in both forms and wording. The proposal as stated even would mean that couples would not have to say anything to have a legal marriage. This proposal threatens what was stated earlier regarding dignity and solemnity. Marriage is not just about two people but about society and culture and meaning from generation to generation.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As in Q 4 above, marriage is not simply about two people who want to do whatever they wish and be together for whatever reason and therefore participate in a ceremony completely of their own choosing. A wedding is a public declaration and, as the gov't itself seems to recognise to at least some extent, such a significant should be dignified and solemn.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I noted earlier, a wedding to begin married life is in various ways a public event, public declaration. Such a proposal would deny that. In addition, the existing requirement helps protect against forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not every venue is recognised by most of society as appropriate for a significant and solemn event such as the marriage ceremony. Not every venue would be as safe as the next. Again, the couples' choice or the families' choice should be a factor, but there must be safeguards which seek to preserve what most people of most societies throughout most of history overwhelmingly have understood the nature of this ceremony--even ceremonies generally--to be.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Again, in each of these contexts, the values of dignity, solemnity, and public expression must be taken into account with seriousness.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It doesn't seem right that one person alone can decide this matter.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I wish to say again here that vocabulary is so important. Somehow there needs to be more careful consideration and then explanation regarding what "safe" and what "dignified" mean. How can appropriate definitions be maintained in today's environment where so often it seems a word can be taken well beyond its historical/traditionally understood semantic range.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I hesitatingly say "Yes." As I noted above, it will be critical to somehow offer the wider public and wedding ceremony officiants ways in which terms like safe and dignified cannot be construed to mean almost anything they wish them to.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The proposals likely will facilitate more couples getting married. However, unless the solemnity and dignity and life-long commitment of marriage are reinforced, what does an increase in the number of legally married couples really matter?



Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFH6-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:08:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

personal capacity

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

this is a serious commitment to each other and therefore should not be trivialized. Couples who wish to marry for life should marry in church or religious place.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not. How can anyone taking marriage seriously and thoughtfully prepared to live together for the rest of their lives consider degrading the marriage service in some thoughtless venue which is considered FUN to them.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSK-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:12:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Personal response

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

We are quite happy for our response not to be treated as confidential.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We were married in Church in a religious ceremony where we took our vows and have remained faithful to them for 55 and a half years.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage was recognised by law.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We had a legally binding wedding and are proud of that fact.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Our marriage was legal.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Our marriage was legally binding.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We have not been involved in any Weddings during the Covid 19 pandemic.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If someone is serious about getting married, why would they want to go to a district where they are not resident?

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is very important that if possible to give notice on line or by post, are who they say they are. Fake marriages so that people may stay in our country have been too prevalent in the past.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least 4 weeks (or more) so that any in-depth appropriate checks can be made.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in-person interview should ALWAYS be a requirement. Sham or forced marriages are, sadly, far too common and protection measures should be tight to avoid these.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

In exceptional circumstances and providing rigorous checks are made, yes it should be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Notices of marriage should also be displayed in other places, eg the Press, as not all people have access to a computer which never seems to be taken into consideration. There are still a great many people who do not interact with social media, computers etc contrary to popular belief.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

An appropriate period of time for the schedule to be valid should be explored taking into account all possible issues.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any officiant should be a licensed person to undertake a wedding - it should never be allowed that anyone not licensed should be able to undertake a wedding.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if it can be proven that the original officiant has valid reason not to be present and only if the substitute is also proven to be an appropriate licensed person.

Please share your views below:

We cannot think of any other reasons, apart from those listed, where a substitute officiant should be needed.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why should this be? If couples meet and one is from Scotland, Northern Ireland or Ireland and want to get married, why should it be that they can no longer authorise a wedding in England or Wales. Surely the banns can be published in both places - England, Wales or Scotland, Northern Ireland or Ireland.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why - heaven help us if there is another war, but why repeal them - why does it matter if this rule remains?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It is lovely that at present banns are read out/published in churches where a wedding is to take place, but there is no reason why they should not be published in for example the press/local paper where the church in which a couple are to marry is.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

At present Clergy usually know the people they are to marry but to avoid any breaking of the law at all, it would not hurt for documentary evidence to have to be produced. The same goes for meeting each of the couple separately - whereas said, Clergy usually know people well who they are to marry, it doesn't hurt for them to meet each of the couple separately before banns are published.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Good idea.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot see any reason why all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries. Some already take place from choice - they are not banned, it is already a choice people can make. Many couples can have a civil ceremony and follow it up by another in church or just a blessing. Blessings seem to follow almost exactly the entire church wedding ceremony.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All should happen to ensure legality and that no-one is being pressurised into a marriage they do not really want.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be a requirement that anyone officiating at weddings is in possession of a license and is registered. It is an outrageous proposal that anyone 'off the street' might be able to officiate at a wedding. A marriage is a commitment that should be taken seriously, not become a 'Pantomime Farce'.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What is the need (or point) in having 2 (or more)? If the one is a licensed officer why should any more be needed?

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If taking the 'Clerk in Holy Orders' is to mean as in Christian churches, a minister who is authorised by a church or religious organisation to perform such functions, yes.

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There most definitely needs to be some sort of official checks made on who can officiate at weddings, religious or Civil.

These proposals need further definition and clarity.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Once again, as long as it is clear that the marriage 'ceremony' is not being taken lightly.

Please share your views below:

Most certainly and it would be useful for the public to have a proposed list of these organisations so that they can give a view.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What checks are to be made on groups of 20 members who regularly meet for (worship) or a furtherance of their beliefs - which could be anything, and which could undermine the whole concept of marriage? Surely some sort of check should be made on what beliefs these people have?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Surely organisations which promote purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality should not be allowed to be officiants. Who on earth would consider that this might be allowed, think this is ok?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This needs to be explained in more detail - eg, by what office? Can see lots of problems arising from this if we are reading this correctly.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be a require for any officiant to be registered and their name kept on a register, which should also state their qualifications to be such an officiant.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anyone who wants to be authorised should have to apply for such an authorisation in order to be included on a public list.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - of paramount importance - why wouldn't it be?

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - there must be rules and regulations in place to protect against unfit people being allowed to become an officiant.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course. Should not be seen as a profit making business. Any officiant needs to take their role and responsibility seriously.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A limit on fees needs to be in place to stop mis-use of the office, if it is not to become a profit-making 'business'.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Both need to remain separate.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of paramount importance and steps should be taken to make sure they are 'the right people' to undertake this office.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This needs to be set out in 'black and white' exactly what is expected. The role of Officiant is not one that should be taken lightly and all appropriate checks, rules and regulations should be put in place and followed to the letter.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Control of this should be in the hands of a responsible Government Department (Home Secretary) or trusted Organisation to make sure the importance of marriage is upheld and never taken lightly.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously someone needs to have authority to take away the power/de-authorise nominated officiants if they are not upholding standards, their duties or responsibilities.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as answer to 38.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessarily - there should surely be checks made that officiants are still able to carry out their duties properly - just like an appraisal at appropriate intervals that all employees have to have.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be an obligation and rule of office.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Declaration (or marriage document) should be signed during the ceremony in the presence of reliable witnesses and proof should be available that all required preliminaries have been undertaken. There has to be definite proof that the wedding is not a sham or forced wedding.

There should be no reduction at all in the seriousness of commitment to marriage, the importance of which must be upheld.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should definitely be an approved form for any Wedding Ceremony containing appropriate wording defined and approved by law - not just left to an individual officiant. Marriage has for far too long been dismissed and downgraded and this has been to the detriment of our society. The sanctity of marriage should be upheld for the important commitment it is and not to be taken lightly.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These religious groups should be allowed to impose their own requirements as a matter of their own practice.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is sad that no religious content is allowed at present in Civil Ceremonies and should be allowed. There are various reasons why some couples have a Civil Ceremony, and many of them have religious beliefs that at present are not allowed to be recognised. Religious content should definitely be ALLOWED.

Please share your views below:

There are many couple who for various reasons have to have a Civil Ceremony but they may be of a religious faith. It does no harm for Civil Ceremonies to allow the Lords Prayer to be said or for a poem with a religious content to be read or even a hymn to be sung if they wish.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is this going to achieve? Why shouldn't couples be able to have a religious ceremony following a civil ceremony. Most definitely should be ALLOWED.

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should be allowed for the doors to be closed, not left wide open. People getting married often say - everyone welcome at the Church and often neighbours and friends who have not actually been invited attend. It works well at present as far as we have seen so why change it?

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We feel quite strongly that if weddings are allowed ANYWHERE it will take away the solemnity and seriousness of the occasion - anywhere could presumably mean at worst a public toilet! Definitely not, there has to be some proposal to cover exactly where weddings may take place.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

We do not agree that weddings should take place on inland waters etc, or in the air.

Regarding outdoors, these sometimes happen now and providing they take place at appropriate outdoor venues (which have a licence) we cannot see the problem. The solemnity of the occasion is usually upheld at these ceremonies.

Likewise, in private homes - these could be allowed if, for example, one of the people has a terminal illness and couldn't be moved or a similar appropriate reason. However, they shouldn't be allowed per se.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely any wedding ceremony should be held where the solemnity of the occasion and privacy of the families can be preserved. If they take place where any member of the public can attend and perhaps make a nuisance of themselves, surely this is not a good idea. There has to be some regulation/rule governing locations.

It would most certainly not be appropriate for a wedding to take place at, for example, Glastonbury during the Festival - this would, like many other

venues make a mockery of the whole procedure in our opinion.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Churches should always be for religious Wedding Ceremonies.

Vicars should be allowed to take a religious service at an appropriate venue elsewhere, depending on the circumstances.

Non- religious weddings should NOT be allowed to take place in Church - why would anyone want a non-religious service in Church? Ridiculous idea.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be definite rules and regulations about venues allowed for weddings, religious or otherwise. If there is such a list then the Officiant can decide if it is 'on the list' and an approved location.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Always but the definition of 'Safe' and 'Dignified' needs to be clearly defined.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - needs an assessment list of rules and regulations.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Rather than optional, should be mandatory.

Please share your views below:

As said, there should be approved guidance list for assessment of venues.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes absolutely.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As English is the main language of our country, should always be in English but could be in Welsh as well - so yes to English and Welsh.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if it it will not lead to an abuse of the system.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds a safe practice to be approved.

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be witnesses and important that rigorous checks are in place that any documentation is correct before a ceremony is carried out.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All correct procedures should be checked and in place before any wedding ceremony takes place.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely a couple should live together after a ceremony - why wouldn't they want to?

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple are committed, why wouldn't they want to go through a legal process. Why should it be presumed they are married. This is a difficult one. As it is, marriage is not given the importance it should have whether a Civil or Religious Ceremony but it has been proven that children brought up in a secure, stable and lovely family tend to thrive better. It is very sad that marriage seems to have been 'downgraded'.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What is it proposed to put in its place? If all the previous safeguards have taken place, how could a 'lack of consent' be proved?

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely, strong safeguards must be put in place to stop this from happening and the penalty if it does should be high.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There should be measures in place for Weddings for terminally ill people, in hospital or housebound to take place.

If someone is in prison, presumably it is for an offence so there should not be any concessions for them. Cannot think of any reason why there should be.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To avoid any person who is ill being encouraged to do something they are not happy with or being 'taken for a ride' as it were. The family of anyone with a terminal illness should be involved to make sure everything is above board.

Sadly often where money might be involved, there have been cases reported in the Press of marriages taking place of terminally ill people which shouldn't have been allowed.

Checks should always take place.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not too sure about this one. Definitely needs some proper control.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should depend on individual circumstances.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should depend on individual circumstances.

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Each circumstance needs to be taken into consideration and procedures put in place to stop illegal practices. This is surely essential.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Nature and length of any emergency always needs to be taken into consideration.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Every circumstances needs to be investigated, explored and fully taken into consideration.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot see the relevance of wanting to get married in coastal waters unless there were exceptional circumstances.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the Captain of the ship has the appropriate authority to do so.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No, not unless there are very exceptional circumstances.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Think the name of both the vessel and officiant should be given in order that any appropriate check can be carried out.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should always be the Captain or other properly registered official.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why should the rules be different?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why should they not be held by an official officiant?

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

We are sure that there must be a demand for both.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If they are on an extended cruise for example, they obviously will have to wait until they return.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds sensible as long as cost is reasonable.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

It would seem sensible to have compassionate grounds for a lower cost.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot see any reason why they shouldn't be able to.



Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a generally agree fee not left to individual Council's to decide.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be generally agreed across the board, not left to individuals to decide their own - which could lead to inflated fees in some areas by some Local Authorities.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes should be agreed standardised fee.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be standard sensible fees across the board.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would make sense.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to cover some of the costs.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as not more then incurred costs.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We have always believed in the sanctity of marriage and think for too long now marriage has been deemed by the 'politically correct brigade' as being irrelevant thus downgrading the meaning and importance of those who decide to get married. It has been made far too easy over some years now, for people to go aimlessly from one relationship to another, which often finds children being shunted from one parent to another and not having a stable family life or upbringing to the detriment of the population as a whole.

People should not go into marriage lightly but because of the relaxation in divorce laws etc, it has become far too easy for people to just walk away. Sadly we have seen far too often children from broken homes suffering. Celebrities have a lot to answer for - many of them seem to think it is ok to 'marry' multiple times and just walk away when they choose. In lots of ways it is sad times we live in where the sanctity of marriage does not have the meaning it once had.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is not necessary to spend a fortune on a Wedding. You can get married at a reasonable cost whilst still having a lovely day and service at a licensed venue of one's choice. It is the commitment to getting married that is important - not the 'keeping up with the Jones's' attitude of so many today.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Weddings should always have to take place in a legally approved, licensed place. This does not mean costs have to be exorbitant. You can have a very cost effective wedding without spending a fortune.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Couples deciding to get married should investigate all the options available and the costs involved, thus avoiding any additional costs that can be avoided. The availability of registration officers and the costs is surely something that every couple investigate and plan for.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

We think the responses to previous questions covers all of these things. We cannot see any benefits of being able to get married anywhere you like without the venue being licensed. If more registration officers are required - there must surely be lots of people looking for new jobs right now - many with the right qualifications or ability to be trained.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We cannot see what impact the current law has on local authorities. Our Local Authority has Civil Ceremonies/Weddings taking place at the Town Hall with the costs known to those who decide to get married there.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cannot really see any benefits, rather a negative if ceremonies are allowed to take place anywhere at all rather than at licensed places like our Local Authority has, as this could result in a lower number of couples deciding to get married at their licensed Town Hall.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Have no evidence of the impact of residents having to travel to get married under the current law other than cost if they choose to travel.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cannot see any potential benefits or otherwise, and do not have any evidence.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No views or evidence.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None known.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No doubt Government and/or more likely Local Authorities will come up with some views about potential costs of proposals to change the law as they always do.

Businesses who are at present not allowed to conduct wedding ceremonies but who might be able to under new legislation could benefit but not necessarily to the benefit of the paying public.

Cannot see how religious or non-religious belief organisations are going to be affected unless the law is changed against for example, religious leaders wishes. Religious Leaders should always be able to say what services they can conduct or not in their own churches/places of worship.

Couples always have choices to make when planning a wedding whether it be for the venue, cost or who to invite etc. It can be as cheap or expensive as they wish to make it.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHP-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:15:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Other

Please expand on your answer:

n/a

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is important that they have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the General Register Office should have a power to ensure that the marriage ceremony is carried out in a solemn, dignified way and be able to deauthorise nominated officiants who have failed to comply with the appropriate standards and responsibilities.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think this is a provision to help the General Register Office exercise its powers.

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that merely signing the marriage schedule is not sufficient. The couple who are getting married need to be at the ceremony.

A wedding is a union which is recognised by society legally and so specific phrases should be used to show people are free to consent to the commitment for life that they are about to enter. I do not think couples should be able to say just anything they like or nothing at all at the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think a wedding is a public ceremony in front of often friends and family. Both the state and society in which we live have an interest in the ceremony of marriage. It needs to be a serious and solemn ceremony to reflect the serious of the lifetime commitment to each other that the couple are starting. The particular ceremony shouldn't necessarily be allowed just because the participants want it, it should be because its appropriate for this very important event. The ceremony should be serious to reflect the couple's undertaking - and shouldn't have frivolous themes. Frivolous themes for marriage ceremonies reflects badly on the seriousness of marriage and gives bad role models for other people. Let's keep the marriage ceremony serious and solemn. There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and a couple can add to them in many different ways to suit them.

I think the law and society have an interest in the marriage ceremony and so entering a union understood by society and legally defined in specific phrases is very important.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no particular reason to change this provision and so it should remain unaltered.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:



This requirement was introduced as a protection against forced marriages. Unfortunately forced marriages are still a problem in our society. Forced marriage is a terrible crime - by keeping the 'open doors' requirement it helps to convey the public nature of wedding declarations. 'Open doors' means public access. This is important. As a democratic society, we should not encourage a false idea that marriage is purely a private matter without any public significance.

Wedding declarations should remain a public declaration.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree. The marriage ceremony for a couple is a serious and solemn undertaking. The places the ceremony takes place should be appropriate. They shouldn't simply be allowed because the couple getting married want them.

Inappropriate settings should not be legitimised. I do not think that undignified ceremonies or settings should be used for legal weddings.

Please share your views below:

There is a lack of clarity on how the different venues listed above (or any other venues) are tested for 'dignity', solemnity and safety. The terms should be defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed. It is not sufficient to call just for guidance from the General Register Office.

Obviously there are specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed. for

instance if someone was very ill, wishing to marry before death and not able to leave their hospital bed, however stringent safeguards need to be met, to keep the solemnity and legality of the marriage and the safety of individuals. We do not want to encourage forced marriages.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that as marriage is a public ceremony, legally binding and society has an interest in it, I think that it is important that civil wedding locations should remain publicly accessible or regularly available to the public for the solemnization of civil marriages.

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think this proposal is rather vague and open to interpretation. The officiant needs to have General Register Office to be accountable to, so that officiants don't start approving frivolous locations for the marriage ceremony.

### Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAH-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:17:09

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Happily and voluntarily married in church 28 years ago, with loads of guests.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Forced marriages have brought misery to many people, particularly of Asian descent. Please retain the dignity of the individual, and the freedom of choice of spouse so vital to family life in this country!

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All cancelled x (3)

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the Catholic Church, Marriage is a Sacrament. A priest needs the opportunity to get to know the couple prior to wedding, to help them realise the commitment they are making and their obligations. Also to assist them if necessary, to untangle any previous marriage that may exist. There must be a reasonable period of time to enable these processes to be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of all parties. Even seven days is insufficient!

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Re previous question, registration is the start of the process, where the priest meets the parties, a vital part of it too!

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

suggest 28 days, in the context of previous responses above.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Not everyone's body language skills are at a level where such 'signals' are obvious to them, so 'celebrants' need training in interviewing techniques. In exceptional circumstances, it may be acceptable to use Skype or other such communication for the initial interview, but subsequent interviews must be in person.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Notice must continue to be given in the district where the marriage is to take place, but may be given in the first instance by other communications media, as answer above.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I can think of no reason why this information should be kept a secret, other than some underhand matter!

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why are we exclusively now discussing Anglican weddings? Does this mean that Catholic, Hindu, Moslem, Jewish etc weddings are not included in this legislation?

To remain relevant to their purpose, banns should be read in the district of the participants' residence, (or in the case of members of the armed services posted away from their homes, their home address).  
Any other place of publishing would arouse a suspicion in my mind.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unaware of these rules, but see answer to Q. 13.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Please see answer to Q 13 above

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a presumption!



Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is too important a matter for any underhand representation to made to either of the parties.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Have no knowledge of this subject.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, providing there is some oversight of registration officers.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See no difference between this scenario and any other

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with 1. above, but disagree with the remaining three proposals, as I fear abuse of the system.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Any concession to the previous requirements must be protected by close oversight.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any ship where a qualified Captain is the officiant, (not, for instance, a fishing boat, where the skipper is solely a fisherman, or a rowing boat).

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be required to give the station of the officiant in the first instance, and update the schedule with the name, within a period of days prior to the marriage.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need more information about the Merchant Navy.

By diluting the requirements for marriage in the name of convenience, we leave the process open to misinterpretation and possible abuse.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer above

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No idea.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The term 'safe and dignified' is an extremely subjective phrase and requires a more accountable set of parameters.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Reasonable

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

reasonable

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

reasonable

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

reasonable

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFH1-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:18:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

The solemnity of the marriage service should be maintained and the participants made fully aware of their commitment

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People must have a prescribed period of consideration

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

People should attend in person to demonstrate legitimacy of the application

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No

Only in emergency

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Full and thorough checking should be maintained to protect all parties

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both parties should attend

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes it should exclude unlawful groups

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Loss of control would ensue

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Authorities should maintain standards



Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Authorities

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHN-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:21:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some churches rely on using a registration officer who is not a member of their congregation. The couple wishing to marry wish to do so in their own church. To remove this option would take away that strongly held wish.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should go through the training process which happens at present if they wish to officiate. This would prevent frivolous wedding practices and maintain the serious understanding of the lifelong commitment being made.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be unhelpful to blur the understanding of what a religion is in order to justify a change to marriage ceremonies. Organisations can get their members to undertake the relevant training to qualify as registration officers.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present arrangements are very satisfactory to ensure that marriage is seen as a serious matter.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

"purposes that are ... contrary to public ... morality" is far too vague a definition. Unlawful organisations should clearly be refused; but to create a supposed moral judgement would be to open decisions to the whims and changes of social morality which the last ten years has shown us can be very rapid and controversial.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, all weddings should be overseen by a qualified registrar.

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All registrars should undergo official training rather than being simply nominated.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be conducted in the presence of trained registrars to prevent frivolous marriages and marriage ceremonies. It might authorise pseudo-religious weddings by in people with questionable motives.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should only be trained registrars as at present.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree provided that the content to be determined is no less than that at present required for registrars of marriage.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, provided officiants have to be either registrar trained to subject to oversight of a registrar during the ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should only offer training and make sure registrars are competent persons.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should remain the responsibility of qualified registrars.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All weddings should be overseen by qualified registrars as at present and not any organisation.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

as in question 38

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is so important to stress that marriage is a lifelong, serious commitment. We should continue to use prescribed legal wording to ensure that this remains the case and that no frivolous commitments are being made during a wedding.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that marriage is recognised as a serious lifelong commitment. Some non-legal ceremonies have illustrated how easily the seriousness of marriage could be undermined by creating frivolous venues or circumstances.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would risk cynical practices by those who despise religion. What might be classed as "identifiable" is open to a wide interpretation and should be avoided.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage was developed as an occasion where the society in which the couple lived would know they had married and could ensure that it was a legal marriage and one they could support. It is important that marriage is openly recognised and supported by the wider community.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious lifelong commitment and should only take place in situations which stress this. The proposed change would open the door to attempts to make marriage as different as possible to any yet held and just be a race to irrelevancy regarding its serious nature.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All these venues could potentially take away the serious nature of marital commitment.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Maintaining the clear difference between the religious and the civil is important. However, some churches use secular premises for their worship and the ability to marry in them in the presence of a registrar would be very helpful.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it official and legal.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep them officially monitored.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it officially defined as at present.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYH-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:22:35

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What is your name?

Name:

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Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews combined with remote notice of the "marriage" leaves too great an opportunity for individuals to be exploited against their will. Prevention is better than trying to extricate the victim at a later date.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Do not trivialize a Christian commitment by implying that the civil preliminary is more important.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Clause 1b should not remove the opportunity for sharing the declaration with those present as witnesses. The requirements are so vague that they do not stipulate that the two people getting married are required to be present at the location at the same time, and to sign the declaration at the same time and place.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There seems to be an ongoing trend for the regulations to erode the seriousness of a marriage commitment, and the value of the declaration should not be trivialised by the participants inventing their own "marriage" ceremony. It degrades the public perception of what a marriage commitment represents. There should be a core commitment where specific promises are made in a dignified manner.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage commitment should be public. If open doors are excluded then it will be easier for individuals to be exploited under duress from cultural tradition or other exploitation.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage location should reflect the seriousness of the commitment being undertaken. It should be at a registered location which has been officially recognised as appropriate.

Please share your views below:

None of those locations seem appropriate to me.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that a wedding location should be chosen on a whim. It should be a recognised and registered venue for the purpose.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that a wedding location should be chosen on a whim. It should be a recognised and registered venue for the purpose.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I do not agree that marine mobile is appropriate.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that marine mobile is an appropriate venue.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

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Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNZ-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:25:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is the name of your organisation?

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What is your email address?

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. No one should be permitted to marry without being present at the wedding ceremony
2. Couples must make a public declaration of their commitment to marry each other. This is foundational to legal marriage.
3. Without 1 and 2 above the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and its for-ever commitment is undermined.
4. While the words used can vary they should convey life-time commitment.
5. Words used should convey that each of the two people involved freely consents to the lifetime commitment they are entering.
6. The wedding must have a public commitment. Society and the law have an interest in a public declaration. No wedding ceremony should be decoupled from the law and wider society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. All wedding ceremonies have a greater significance than its just what the couple wants.  
Marriage is a vital part of wider society so the ceremony must reflect this wider, greater connection, however small the number of people involved.

2. Thus a wedding ceremony is a public declaration in which wider society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. Repealing this requirement will lead to all sorts of damaging pressures and consequences for the couple, their families and wider society.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAQ-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:27:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in church and registered officially

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Abolishing this requirement allows rushed marriage without serious intent.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Waiting 7 days makes the marriage commitment serious, not spur of the moment

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Video interviews are perfectly valid

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This should cover all United Kingdom or Commonwealth residents

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican church is worldwide, and is linked to churches in N Ireland, Scotland and Ireland.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be published on the Internet site of the Anglican church involved. No where else is necessary.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This is an excellent requirement, to emphasise the seriousness of marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Each person is responsible, and should make separate declarations. One cannot speak for the other.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the Church of England is the national church, with the monarch as its head, then this recognition should remain.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no point in having non-believers officiate in churches. Clergy must officiate in church.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clergy must officiate in churches

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants who are un-qualified should not be allowed to conduct marriages, otherwise it undermines the dignity and seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Organisations that are do not have any connection with marriage (eg sports clubs, gyms) should not be allowed to conduct marriages.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation that promotes law breaking must not be allowed to officiate at weddings

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

An office holder should be able to be nominated

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The Public must have access to who is, and who is not, officially recognised to conduct marriages

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants at wedding must belong to a recognised institution, or else the seriousness of marriage will be undermined

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a not-for-profit commitment, and should be allowed to become a money-making machine. Weddings are expensive enough already, without the officiants charging extras.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious undertaking, and should not be entered into lightly or without serious and solemn intent. Officiants who are not trained in the legality and serious purpose of marriage should be not allowed to conduct weddings, otherwise marriage would become worthless and meaningless.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants must know that they have a standard of dignity and solemnity to adhere to when conducting marriages, and that failure to comply will result in being barred.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Continual training as laws evolve and society changes is essential

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Giving consent to be married must be done in person, in public, in front of witnesses, as part of a dignified, solemn and serious ceremony. When couples commit for life to be married their consent must be clear for all to see, and to demonstrate it is done willingly and legally, not just signed on a piece of paper.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing un restricted marriage ceremonies to take place, which could be in the middle of nowhere, and without some structured and credible actions and words, totally undermines the seriousness of the commitment being made.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is already considerable flexibility allowed for marriages

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no restrictions on the religious content of a civil wedding ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Readings, prayers and personal testimonies must all be allowed.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Civil ceremonies should be combined with a religious service, to save expense.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Conducting weddings in public is an essential part of demonstrating how serious marriage is, and of its importance for the well-being and ordering of society. Everyone must be allowed to hear the consent to marry being willingly given, and not forced.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage ceremonies must be dignified and solemn, for such a life changing and lifelong commitment, and the location must reflect this. There must be adequate space for witnesses to be present and for the occasion to be seen by the public.

Please share your views below:

Provision of space for witnesses, and in venues that are legally registered, is essential for making the seriousness and dignity of marriage evident. Free-fall or parachute or scuba-diving weddings are neither dignified nor serious.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location of a wedding must be dignified and solemn.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location of a marriage ceremony should be dignified and solemn and legally approved, to show that it is a serious commitment, for life.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a legal definition of Safe and Dignified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pre-approval of all venues for weddings should be part of making them legal.

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office should maintain and publish the list of legally approved venues, with easy Internet access to this information.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registration must be visible to witnesses, in public not in private.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The presence of witnesses and proper signing are essential for a dignified and solemn lifelong commitment.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no limit on the time for a forced marriage to be nullified.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Special circumstances require special measures, and these should be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location must be dignified and serious.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

The vessel must be such that witnesses can be present, and the ceremony dignified and solemn.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Officiant must be recognised in English law

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

The wedding ceremony should reflect the couples wishes.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFN3-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:33:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I agree

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAT-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:39:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None - private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not want my response treated as confidential

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In a civil partnership

No

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/C

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reducing the time requirement reduces the seriousness of the intended commitment

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Options are reasonable in this electronic and on-line age

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least seven days

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All interviews should be in-person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but in addition to a printed notice displayed in an appropriate location

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The principles of the United Kingdom should be upheld

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. yes

2. no - the couple should be met jointly as the wedding would be a partnership not just a casual arrangement

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding couples make a commitment before God so the role of the Church is paramount

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Church weddings must be conducted by an ordained priest

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal would demean the role and importance of an officiating priest

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The law should do this. Some organisations are fronts for others that entirely against the morals and legalities of this country.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would ensure essential transparency

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This responsibility should include ensuring that the form of service or commitment upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential to maintain minimum standards

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This protection must exist to prevent the trivialisation of marriage

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The law in this country is, except in rare circumstances, conducted in public. The marriage commitment should be the same - made jointly in public in the presence of witnesses. It should also follow a set procedure, not something made up that erodes the dignity of the marriage ceremony. A married couple should be recognised as such because all couples make the same binding commitment.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See question 42

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages should ideally be made before God not just the state

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A religious service should always be permitted

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is essential as marriage has very public significance and the service should be visible and accessible to all. Visibility is needed as a protection against forced and fraudulent ceremonies.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limitation that ensures the location is a suitable setting for a dignified, serious and meaningful commitment. We do not want to end up having Las Vegas themed weddings which are none of those things, nor any location which is incompatible with the dignity of marriage.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors may not be unreasonable but the other locations do not provide the means for the essential public statement of commitment.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must avoid confusion about the significance of a religious commitment

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could put an officiant under incorrect pressure. There should be clear guidelines for a location to be acceptable.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would ensure that otherwise acceptable locations become unsuitable because of the manner in which they would be used. Strong safeguards are essential.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Strong and very clear guidance is needed to avoid mis-interpretation

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Please share your views below:

N/C

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1 and 2, no to 3. While the presence of parents would be desirable, the commitment is between the marriage couple regardless of parental opinion.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must be visible and publicly seen

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/C

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

N/C

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

N/C

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

N/C

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

N/C

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNT-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:39:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There must be a personal interview to protect from sham or forced marriages

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should still be possible as long as protection from illegal immigrants

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided a legally registered officiant

Please share your views below:

No

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Most definitely

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Most definitely

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Definitely

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Propose a ten year limit on each licence other than those granted to officiants of the Anglican Church

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn undertaking and should not be changed from the present form

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As q.42

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors were to stop forced or sham marriages and should be retained

## Chapter 7: Location



Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only in designated and licenced venues

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Weddings only to be conducted in licenced venues

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Licenced venues only

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as officially licenced

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep current documentation to avoid fraudulent marriages being registered

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to fraudulent documents

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Makes a mockery of the marriage and would lead to more sham marriages

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problems

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to sham marriages being made too easy

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only in licenced venue on land

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As q.68

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No as q.68

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As q.68

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As q.68

No

Please expand on your answer:

As q.68

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Again, probably only for sham marriages

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

as q.68

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFA3-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:40:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I write as a private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was legally married, but am now a widower.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No legal barriers

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Not attended any weddings during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Giving notice is necessary, but not the seven day residence before giving notice.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in-person interview should be required if there is the possibility of a sham or forced marriage, but provided there is no possibility of these, then interviews remotely seem a satisfactory arrangement.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This seems to be quite reasonable.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We live in a digital age and notice of an intended marriage displayed online seems quite adequate.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An Anglican wedding should require banns to be published and if one of the participants is resident in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Ireland, banns published there should be still required.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I feel that banns should be published in the church or churches where both parties are resident.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Having the power and requirement to check documentary evidence seems reasonable and necessary. This should be possible by meeting the couple together or separate, whichever is more convenient.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

In order to avoid the possibility of sham or forced marriages, it seems necessary for both parties in a marriage to attend and make separate declarations, for a common licence to be granted to authorise an Anglican wedding.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the event of a wedding taking place at a church or chapel not registered for weddings, a registration officer should be present.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Organisations, whether religious or non-religious, that promote purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality should be expressly excluded from nominating officiants for weddings.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, religious or non-religious organisations should be able to nominate officiants by office, in addition to nominating named individuals.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Having independent officiants would open the door to all kinds of people applying for such a position, in order to make money or for other unworthy motives.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment on the part of the parties involved and officiants should be required to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with independent officiants being authorised, but if the government decides to authorise such people, then the General Register Office should be responsible for monitoring them and de-authorising any who fail to comply with the required standards.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should only be entered into by both parties agreeing that they enter freely and voluntarily.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access should be required for all weddings to ensure that neither party is being forced into a marriage they do not agree to.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A list of approved places for weddings should be required to ensure the solemnity and dignity of marriage.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access to weddings should be required to prevent forced marriages from taking place.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Approval of the location of weddings should be the responsibility of the Register Office.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The pre-approval process should be the responsibility of the local Register Office. The list of such approved places should be kept by each Register Office.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that 'Welsh only' might cause problems later if questions are raised about the marriage by a non Welsh speaking person.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The absence of witnesses should make a marriage void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Except for exceptional circumstances, the couple should be expected to cohabit after the celebration of the marriage, to avoid 'marriages of convenience' such as to overcome immigration rules.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

It seems to me that there are problems with the law governing weddings of persons who are detained in prison or are housebound.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the solemnity and dignity of the ceremony is maintained, I see no objection to their being held in the territorial sea.

### Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Such provision would broaden the range of possible places where marriages could take place, in such a way as to lose control. Marriages should not be allowed to take place on a privately owned vessel, as this would contravene the principle of public access.

### Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that the proposals would make any significant difference to the number of couples getting married. There is a popular idea that 'having to have a piece of paper' is unnecessary and that all that they require to cohabit is that they love one another.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHY-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:45:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church based

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Local bans of marriage are an important mode of protection for both parties but especially female to prevent coercion.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is not possible on a remote call to see if somebody is being coerced

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

What circumstances. Is this to say that if the official can not tow a line because of faith beliefs the substitute can officiate. If so this is wrong and detracts from a person's right of belief

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not we are a union

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Weddings are a public announcement and should be made public. This would also offer more protection against coercion

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Faith based marriages should be seen as genuine to their faith. Clergy should be able to satisfy themselves of that faith. Evidence would also protect against coercion

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes to protect both parties

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason, other than the drive to a secular state, why weddings should become solely civil ceremonies

## Chapter 5: Officials

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We need to protect the importance of marriage and allowing anybody to have a licence to marry who reduce this

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does this reduce the level of witness as I am not sure of the purpose of the question

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is 20 enough as not sure that such a small number confers the importance of marriage

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

So this is saying that what is considered morality which may change at the the whim of opinion makers can exclude those that believe in an absolute morality. This seems like a clause that will only enhance those who are against people of faith and allow legal challenges

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be a recognised officiant

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this contradictory to q32

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This does not go far enough. What does dignity and solemnity mean. Define responsibility. As this will be seen as different by different people.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly but what does guidance mean. Is this a minimum level or can it be added to.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How will this be monitored as fit and proper may be open to debate

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possible route to conflict unless fit and proper is described properly

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

as above

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be a time limit that can be renewed. It may be that somebody is clearly unfit to authorise

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Seems to be very subjective. Who is deciding what that officiant needs and is the person managing the PD able and skilled to do this

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage ceremonies should be public affairs and there should be no fear in saying there is no reason why somebody is able to get married. A back stop to coercion. Both parties should be at the ceremony and the proclamation that they are wed should be public from that moment. Marriage is a profound event and any thing that reduces the responsibilities of all parties reduces its meaning

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Will reduce the importance of the event.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The promises made to each other

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would you want to stop this unless it is another way for the secular society to take hold of life

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are public events and have public implications and should remain so. Why would two people who are pledging the rest of their lives together not want all to know.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reduces the importance of marriage to just an event not something special and life affirming

Please share your views below:

This all depends on how society sees weddings. If it is just a private event then this does not bestow the seriousness of the occasion. How does this cover the safe and dignified expectations to be met.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

What about faith communities who meet in say schools. They may want a wedding in those premises

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is too much at the whim of the officiant who may have personal reasons why a place may not be used. EG a secularist refusing a school where a faith community may meet.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please define safe and dignified

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be stringent safeguards if the importance of the ceremony is not to be downplayed

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are a union with a common language. Marriage details should be accessible without the need for translation

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF85-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:46:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not just about becoming a legally defined couple it is also about society. Therefore it is appropriate to hold the marriage ceremony in the district in which the couple or their families are rooted.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it preferable for the in-person interview to come first but can see that this might not be possible in certain circumstances, for instance terminal illness.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Many weddings are arranged a year or more ahead - in this context 7 days is a short period.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There would need to be a lot of safeguards around remote interviews.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

How will you ensure that the public will know where to access online notices?

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. During every wedding ceremony, the parties should be required to express:

a) their consent to be married to each other AND

b) that there is no impediment to their marrying each other

2. Weddings are ceremonies in which society and the law have an interest. Within the marriage ceremony the wording of any public declaration and binding oaths should be foundational to the legality of the marriage ceremony. Couples already have a large amount of flexibility how they arrange most their wedding.

3. The couple should consent both in writing and by the spoken word to specific phrases showing that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

4. This propose sounds as if it would be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. The marriage should be formed at the point in the ceremony when both parties give their consent to marry each other.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. The couple are making a legal binding commitment to each other for life therefore the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony should not be undermined.

Couples already have a large amount of flexibility how they arrange most their wedding.

I have been to some pretty wacky weddings in my 70+ years & the place for this freedom of expression is at the reception not during the dignity of an official ceremony.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I find this proposal very worrying.

Forced marriage is a problem in many societies around the world including ours. The 'open doors' requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as

a protection against forced marriage.

Also it helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations. Removing this requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated in some of my previous comments, marriage ceremonies should be treated seriously as an occasion when legally binding commitments are made.

Venues should be dignified and safe not simply allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Please share your views below:

I have concerns that many of these venues are incompatible with the dignity of a wedding ceremony or the ability to hold legal weddings.

As in my previous comment about forced marriage, how can public accessed be maintained in the air or in private houses? Wedding venues must be public spaces.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Forced marriage is a problem in many societies around the world including ours. The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage.

Also removing this requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance. The 'open doors' requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues are likely to be safe & dignified public spaces

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can't answer this without knowing the test for "dignity" and "safety". Many of the examples in Q 48 would give rise to concern.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The terms "dignity" and "safety" would have to be very clearly defined and stringent safeguards be proposed.

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local authorities/public health/H&S executive

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF8K-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:49:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in 1963 [REDACTED] and the marriage is recognised by the law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To preserve the dignity of marriage and the rightful commitment to it

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This removes the ability of others to rightfully object to the wedding on legal reasons

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that it is recognised that some older people would not be computer owners or computer savvy. All that care and responsibility would be taken to ensure that notice was given

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

This gives time for the reasons to be considered and if necessary for the couple to re-arrange their marriage

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews should be possible unless the opposing parties are a considerable distance from where it would take place. Also it needs to be taken into account that a remote interview would not give the opportunity for the interviewer to read the persons body language

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

many people would not look for such notices online especially the elderly

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This allows time for any problems to be efficiently dealt with

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This makes the whole thing open and gives people the right to either attend or not attend

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided the officiant is chosen by the people getting married and not forced upon them

Please share your views below:

No it is an invasion of rights

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be used as an excuse to not issue marriage banns

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This when kept to the parishes of the couple entering into marriage should be kept for the reasons of allowing legal objections

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This will ensure that the couple are legally marriageable and that meeting before banns are issued is an excellent way to ensure the couple understand the importance of their undertaking

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would express the importance of what is being undertaken

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for more than one for how many would be legally required to attend

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They are used to performing such duties

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisations would be the most informed people to suggest the officiant

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would prevent a very small minority appointing an officiant or an appointed officiant having to comply with the belief of those who have opinions conflicting with the officiant.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Public policy should not interfere with organisation promoting their own officiants

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Named individuals would be known by all concerned and therefore should be allowed to act in a wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided such information is for knowledge only and is not used in the future for striking a person off due to their beliefs

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This opens the way for all and sundry to become officiants

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This ensures the officiants are responsible people and adhere to the beliefs of the organisation they represent

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a service not an enterprise for making money

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a limit on fees as otherwise people will enter the officiants business in order to make money

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There would be an obvious conflict of interests if allowed

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided it is in the accepted rights of marriage

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This provides a framework for the people to work within

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise there could be interference from others on all sorts of grounds

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a life service

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony must involve the commitment of each person to the marriage

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could place the organisation in great difficulty if the expression of the ceremony went against their beliefs

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would safeguard the practice and beliefs of the above mentioned religious groups and those religious groups not mentioned

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives the marriage partners the right to include religious content into their ceremony which could be refrained in a religious setting

Please share your views below:

Singing of hymns or religious songs. The reading from the Bible or other religious writings  
The sharing of the message of Jesus.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the right of a married couple to have a ceremony in a place of worship if they request it.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the problems of forced or arranged marriages are open to the public as well as the fact that marriage is important to society and not simply a private affair

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the seriousness of marriage is maintained and not reduced to places of inappropriateness

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

The importance of a wedding ceremony could be maintained out doors but in a private home at the air or lake would be difficult to maintain plus the importance of ensuring that the public could attend would be difficult

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:



Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the responsibility of the couple concerned the officiant is there to serve not to dictate unless the chosen place has obvious problems for a wedding to take place

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This depends upon what is officially considered safe and dignified. This need greater clarification

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided such assessment is clearly defined and free of any prejudice

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is of importance to the generations that follow

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

English is the spoken language of the UK and as such should be the registering of the marriage document

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could to easily be mis-used

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems self evident that knowledge by both parties of a wedding ceremony must be observed as as required

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is important to save the importance of the marriage commitment

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This preserves the importance of marriage

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The cohabitation period would prevent people marrying for convenience only

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation is not the same as a marriage commitment. Why would people cohabit for a long time without being willing to make a public commitment?

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would underline the importance of the marriage ceremony

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not the purpose of a registration officer to know all the facts about a person before issuing a schedule. It may be important according to the nature of the illness for close family to decide whether or not the person is being married for a financial gain

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Their should be no time limit as it is often impossible for any one to define the length of a persons terminal illness

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives time for people to assess what the outcome is likely to be

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Real emergencies need time for involved couples to re-adjust

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This makes a mockery of the seriousness of the wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again this would favour the rich as less affluent members of the family or friends would not be able to afford to take part

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would keep the officer from having out of pocket expenses

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would obviously keep register offices from making money unnecessarily but at the same time it must be a fee that the poor could afford

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The registration officer should not be involved in ceremonies out side of the registration office

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not have any evidence but I do believe the current law does not discourage or prevent couples from getting married

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The marriage ceremony has become extortionate for people who want to get married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF6U-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:50:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Westminster City Council

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

The Pandemic has changed weddings dramatically - reduced numbers of guests, restrictions on personalisation and multiple cancellations and rescheduling due to lockdowns and changes in tiers. This has not prevented large numbers of couples still wishing to marry, as they realise the significance and the importance of being married when the wider world is uncertain. The ceremony has become a more important to couples, and the party / reception less so.

Many couples have had to change their plans 4, 5 or more times; and some have rescheduled at late notice to beat lockdowns and changes in tiers.

Westminster City Council Registration Services has shown during the pandemic, that they can be flexible, responsive and creative. This has enabled us to react quickly and effectively to changes in demand and Government guidance. What has become really clear is just how much work registrars have to do to support couple through the marriage process, particularly when external changes affect plans. This is not limited to telephone or email, but increasingly by social media.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed. In this day and age not sure what purpose residency requirement service.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – pre population of information would save time and resources, be in line with GRO modernization agenda, plus focus the couple on what documentary evidence is required (rather than them turning up in person without required documents and wasting time and resources).

Would there be different requirements if subject to immigration control? If not some concern over Sham marriage – one indicator of a sham marriage is lack of knowledge about each other, and referring to notes. How will this be picked up if the couple are online at another location, and / or with third party arranger completing? Additionally may incentivise producing false documents to claim not subject to immigration control, and avoid further scrutiny.

Questions remain -

Would couples be able to start process abroad, inc. other places within UK?

Would Registrars be able to request right to interview or would it be compulsory for all or some couples?

How would Safeguarding role be maintained eg predatory marriage, trafficking – face to face interview allow these issues to be assessed?

What kind of questions will registrars ask in interview? Would this turn registrars into immigration officers - limiting our role to assessing veracity of relationships and documents? If interview too short to assess couple, and if elongated then what benefit is it in having a two stage process.

Concern over the impact of couples having choice where to go for face to face interview – Councils may not know how many couples will come to their service which makes it difficult to plan future service provision.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult question – 3 days would benefit overseas couples; 7 days would give more time for investigation but is that even long enough – especially over prolonged closure periods like bank holidays and Christmas?.

If pre population not effective, may have problems identified at interview stage that need time to resolve, so 3 or 7 days not sufficient.

Registrars have public protection role – eg predatory or sham marriage – safeguarding referrals may have to be sent to different local authority if not giving notice within own district. This takes time to resolve.

S24 report on Sham Marriage – would 3 or 7 days be enough time?

Working days not calendar day?

What about where foreign divorce need clearance which takes time

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Whilst useful to have this ability given difficulties experienced in Covid pandemic, remote interviews do not allow sufficient assessment of veracity of documents, safeguarding issues, sham marriage indicators etc. Even if in person could be required to attend an in person interview if concerns arose, how to arrange within timescale before ceremony due to take place, especially if prior to bank holidays, prolonged closures, or busy period in offices, when face to face appointments not available for some time.

Whilst we support true reform, need systems to support such as digital document checking system (although that would not necessary be in place for foreign nationals)

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as long same safeguards so not easy route. Needs to be same across all UK – otherwise perpetuate same problems – different rules apply for parties depending on residence. If in person interview close to ceremony date could be less of an issue as likely to be in country where ceremony to take place already?

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, for the reasons given. Addresses withheld along with place of marriage (and if as per future questions indicate there will be no open doors, less chance of in person objection, so would need to object in advance),

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should also add - could allow extensions by law, at the Registrar General's discretion to manage extraordinary events such as the pandemic

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The problem with identifying officiant on schedule is that  
- couples may not have decided who their officiant is  
- officiant may have to change due to ill health etc

Could officiant add own name and maybe any registration / licence number on schedule?

If identify officiant on schedule, and the person changes then there should be a fee for reissuing a Schedule.  
If officiant changes on day, and schedule has wrong officiant name, will it still be valid?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – this would be need to be possible for obvious reasons.

Please share your views below:

Questions:

Would it be in any emergency / instance? The couple could have had a falling out, officiant may go out of business, decide they are not doing it – it won't necessarily be like a contracted position with an infrastructure to support, where someone else can step in.  
What would be the process for change?

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:



Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes – if not introducing universal civil preliminaries, at least do this to prevent sham / forced / predatory marriage, but ultimately best idea would be to have universal civil preliminaries.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Universal Civil Preliminaries for the reasons given in the consultation - registrar are highly trained, independent and consistent; able to maintain knowledge and skills by undertaking same appointments regularly. Clergy are not.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But also to recognise and report Sham / predatory / forced marriage

#### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil registrars to be able to be independent officiants too.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, unless operational reasons why may need to ie remote location or late timing of ceremony, but that will be a choice not a need.

#### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Universal civil marriage – eliminates these processes and difficulties

#### Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Universal civil marriage – eliminates these processes and difficulties

#### Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Universal civil marriage – eliminates these processes and difficulties.

Non belief – very narrow definition, effectively description of humanists. What about atheists, agnostics etc...

Please share your views below:

Any one which professes violence or found to be illegal.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Universal civil marriage – eliminates these processes and difficulties.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, but how to define / police / enforce?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Also for civil officiants – eg Registrar of Westminster registration Service

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, via local register offices. National register held by GRO.

Need regulation / CPD

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – but how to be decided, criteria? GRO should have the final say. Description of what fit and proper is.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Training on legal requirements could be delivered by register offices, as well as training on conducting if required.

CPD – compulsory experience, must have done so many ceremonies within a certain period of time, so can make sure still practicing. Could pull off Schedule system who has done ceremonies, so easy to manage.

Submit footage of ceremonies and have a complaints process including complaint by venues, not just couples

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but how to manage?

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – being a registrar should not be classed as a conflict of interest.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – can't cross over between belief and non belief

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Difficulty to police and enforce, and subjective.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registration fee to become an officiant could include cost of follow up survey with couples, spot checks etc?

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not them alone – GRO too. who should behave like GMC.

Concerns around this – some organisations already not overly concerned with compliance with law above their own religious observances (eg [REDACTED] not completing legal words in ceremony with both parties present). How would registrars be able to flag repeat issues with Schedules if not completed properly etc?

Too much Trust. Universal civil marriage would be a solution.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but how will they know? Will they expect local registration service to monitor, inspect, check? If so cost implication, as well as change of role. May put LRS in difficult position if accused of conflict of interest. How reports and complaints to be made?

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but how will they know? Will they expect local registration service to monitor, inspect, check? If so, cost implication, as well as change of role. May put LRS in difficult position if accused of conflict of interest. How reports and complaints to be made?

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Can see the practical benefits to avoid expiry and still doing ceremonies (but issuing a schedule to a officiant would eliminate this as would check before issue), but concern lists will become outdated very quickly – many added but few removed. How ensure up to date with requirements / training etc? Renewal of authorisation would provide opportunity to review performance against responsibilities, ensure regular discourse on obligations

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, need to be clear at what point couple are married, and give them an opportunity to not go ahead. Schedule signing is not point of marriage. If is not clear to witnesses the point at which they married, then can you argue they are actually married?

Feel that we still need a form of words to that indicate you married if not in religious rite or ceremony. In the absence of any rite or ceremony need to have prescribed words. Would this be an issue for non religious couples to have an official set of words. Could be as simple as "Do you consent to be married to this person?".

Agree No impediment declaration required.

What happens if schedule not signed, or schedule lost? Is this not turning marriage in written rather than verbal contract.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need something – statement of consent. Otherwise doubt as to when married. Something prescribed. If officiant has to testify what happened if marriage in doubt, then how would they remember, if there is nothing concrete. If signing schedule is it, then why the need for a ceremony.

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would benefit interfaith couples who can incorporate something significant to each of them

Please share your views below:

Examples would be good as registrars like rules and examples to give guidance. General principles – clearly civil, not identifiable as a religious ceremony, could allow cultural and religious traditions such smashing glass, jumping over broomstick, using ties for handfasting, lighting a candle, period of silence and reflection, particularly if one offs not part of series of religious content that could constitute religious ceremony.

### Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Doubts as to when a marriage formed – how would this be made clear without resorting to courts. Interfaith couple have Jewish ceremony followed by Muslim ceremony, married when schedule signed, but what if schedule not signed until civil ceremony 10 days later?

### Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. No benefit and inconsistent approach across all ceremonies.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Offers more choice.

However the rationale put forward in the consultation, that it will reduce cost is not necessarily the case and could create difficulties for registrars but not for other officiants. The cost of approved premise approvals is not as big an issue as suggested, as cost borne by multiple couples getting married there at that venue in most cases. What is being proposed would necessitate each ceremony location to be assessed (and inspected?) and the cost borne by each couple individually. Also registrars (to protect Health and Safety of staff) are likely to be more rigorous than other officiants who either want the business or put religious duties first.

Please share your views below:

Concerns have been raised about permission from landowners? Who checks permissions – could end up with having multiple couples on same day, if assume can be married at local beauty spot.

What about the weather? What if can't go ahead, or officiant not happy to go ahead but couple want. Could create difficulties for a lone celebrant to refuse.

If ceremony permitted to take place in a hot air balloon – how record place of marriage (Yellow striped balloon drifting over Hertfordshire)? Moored boats – or moving boats? What if the location changes in the course of the ceremony and a border is crossed - where is the schedule returned to?

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Doesn't really matter if civil takes place in religious building – the content is what will clear differentiate it from a religious ceremony, and would give more flexibility / choice to couples. Those religions that don't want their buildings to be used can just prohibit their use by civil officiants. But does that mean have to open civil venues (ie Town halls) up to religious and non belief officiants?

Not necessary for law to prohibit it, then up to organisations to decide if want open venues. Venues would have to charge for usage / hire

Independent officiants / Humanists – have no venues of their own.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However we recommend Pre approval. we feel many officiants are unlikely to visit in advance? and so how will guarantee safe and dignified location? Based on what couple tell them? They will face huge pressure to proceed even if don't feel safe or dignified as surrounded by guests etc.

Concern that individual civil registrar should not be responsible to decide if location should be approved, but rather the local authority. Would not want a civil registrar to be able to refuse to officiate a ceremony at a LGBT venue for example. Need to guard against discrimination.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Pre approval – yes (see answer to Q48)

Possible to have preapproved places, with wider choice and that trustees / owners can pre approve space eg park; approved venues grounds; National Trust / English Heritage cliff tops, riversides etc. Burden will not borne by individuals, and the appropriate control and permissions would follow, otherwise how will officiants know that the owners of land / beach / cliff top etc give permission for use.

Please share your views below:

Local authority. Additional burden offset by not having to license approved venues. Will need to be charged for but makes sense for many regularly used venues / locations etc. and would give couples ideas about what is seemly and dignified. Means couples don't need to do the extra work

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Parents information should be taken at the time of the notice. The date and location should be added before it is signed by the couple and their witnesses to ensure all in agreement as to the date and location of the wedding.

If allowing ceremonies in hot air balloon for example, where / how will location of wedding be recorded if travelling? And how will the couple know which registration district to return schedule to?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be able to be registered in any official language of England and Wales.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1)Yes

2) No – if requirement that the ceremony must be witnessed then absence should render it void. This could leave one or both parties open to abuse of modern slavery/ forced / predatory marriage, as forced into signing schedule without even witnesses.

3) Yes, but would need a legal declaration at some point to establish marriage took place (like a statutory declaration).

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but in the case of 2. need to be clear what is the expression of consent ie words or signing of schedule

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not really – concerns about only one party giving notice to both, so registrar not able to determine other party entering of own free will, relying on first party and one doctor. But pre ceremony questioning obviates this ( as a failsafe). It could be considered open to abuse or allegations of abuse. But how to strengthen? no time for objections

The shortened timeline makes it difficult to carry out investigation.

In the case of RGLs – there have been challenge from family about not knowing about the ceremony.

There is a difficulty for those who fall between housebound and RGLs – Dr doesn't think within 28 days so should give housebound notices, then have to give notice for RGL when deteriorates. recommend remove "cannot be moved to a place"

Suggestion for RGL (deathbed) marriages – keep it as a fast track process, and bring in compliance afterwards to validate the marriage ie submitting documents, allowing objections, and not complying would invalidate

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Disagree. Can see what trying to do. But better to tighten up doctors letter and pre ceremony questioning.

Difficulties of this are that terminally ill person may have very little time in which to give notice, even remotely. Taking notice from both parties elongates the process – time and arrangements especially out of hours – additional burden on Registrar. If remotely it is likely that the well party or family member will complete pre population. Able to give notice, have interview and get married all on same day very real possibility, and this would require registrar to be available for whole day (and if this was the case it would need an appropriate fee).

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Would this be needed? Maybe 3 months. Valid for 1 month now – how many have to give fresh notices?

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but for no. 3. be clear it would be under certain specified categories eg high risk couples such as health workers or infectious.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes (same for any other marriage – officiants name to be entered closer to time of ceremony) Check against a register – validate it.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why can't it be officiated by any registered officiant in England and Wales?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Could be popular with some couples, those travelling for significant religious event such as Haj.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Allow digital signatures. Otherwise suggest reasonable timescale of 3 month.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Yes, should charge a fee, but needs to take into account operating costs higher in London (salaries, travel, building costs), so should be cost recovery fees set locally. Otherwise just replicating same problems as now with other statutory fees, which don't cover the costs of providing the service. These fees could be waived on hardship / compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

As in answer for question 75 but (all or part) waivable by LRS on compassionate grounds

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes the option should still continue but fee needs to be locally set at a cost recovery basis, to take into account operating costs higher in London. Otherwise it perpetuates current problems with a fee prescribed by regulation – regular uplifts don't happen in line with rising costs.

Concerns that registrars will be the only officiant compelled to perform statutory ceremonies, and if they are at below the costs, this is an unfair burden on local authorities in comparison to other officiants.

Could have the statutory ceremony being means tested fee, so only available to those who can't afford other options, but appreciate this may be stigmatizing. Should be only available to local residents, especially if at below cost recovery fee.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be local authority

Consultation Question 80:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not a standardized hourly rate, as the cost of provision will vary from register office to register office; and from region to region. For example London register offices has higher operating costs inc. salary costs and therefore a standardized hourly rate across the country would be below cost recovery for London. Therefore should have a locally set fee.

Question as to why Independent officiants will be able to set their own rates, so why can't local authorities?

Concerns if Law Commission proposing that the overall fee for civil marriage would be RO fee + travel time only, unless discretionary extras? This will have an unfair impact as costs of staff and running costs higher. How will registration services cover other costs involved in delivering the service – staff time on booking, contact with couples, checking paperwork, rota'ing staff etc.

Also if charging fee in advance what happens when travel difficulties, and travel takes longer than anticipated? What happens if couple dispute route taken, and therefore travel time.

Structure applied to registrars not to other officiants

Concerns raised that if local authorities can't recover full costs of ceremony (inc. back office costs), as well as pay decent salaries, may reduce / lose staff, especially if staff can make more money as independent or non belief officiants. The may skew the market and drive up costs overall, as independent officiants will be able to charge what they like as may end up dominating the market.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, locally set but how are additional services determined. Anything about statutory minimum ie Register Office ceremony, so readings, walk in, contact time beforehand, prep work / paperwork.

Its not clear what the Law Commission are suggesting:

1. Talking about booking, administrating,. Pre ceremony discussion, RON, issue schedule etc or duo ceremony
2. Or talking about extras to ceremony

Will cause more problems for couples, as how will they know what they want, menu of costs eg exchange rings £19; readings £20 each or like what we have ceremony for 1 hour.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Locally set fee

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Locally set, but waivable at registrars discretion.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and to cover future costs of training, complaints procedure, monitoring etc

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Already wide range of ceremonies in different locations and at different costs available, so costs would not put off many couples, though restrictions on having a ceremony meaningful to them might.

However for some low income couples may be put off – Register Office ceremonies are very limited so may not be able to have guest list they would like; availability of Register Office limited and often its higher income couples who have booked available slots. Answer is to make RO ceremonies more cost effective for local authorities, so can offer more of them and potentially in larger rooms – need higher fee that reflects true cost recovery, or means tested so know offering to those in need.

2. Outside / private houses may encourage couples, but not necessary increase numbers. Widening scope of legal ceremonies may mean more legal marriages. More weddings in this country rather than have to go abroad (less register office as a result). Maybe more legal marriage registered from religious communities but negligible.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Cost too low which means less availability, which means option not available to many. this is the result of a nationally set fee which which has not risen in line with costs of provision.
2. Good variety of venues and options available from town halls to stately homes, and at variety of prices

Main cost staff time which may be slightly reduced as only one staff member, but approval process for one venue split between all couples marrying there over 3 year licence. If have officiant has to check location seemly and dignified each time, then that one couple will bear the cost. Costs of registrars little part of overall cost; cost of risk for venues is what drives up costs of venues. Costs of marrying at Approved Venue mainly due to additional on costs hire, flowers, reception, each venue is different

4. Potentially cost is cheaper as not authorized. But paying for 2 ceremonies. Impact on non licenced venues, but these may increase (enforcement action for beach / park) because more formalised

5. Register Office may not be available, so spend more on decommissioned / town hall wedding. Costs going abroad maybe cheaper, and it ties in with the honeymoon etc. so many couples will still want this option.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. No benefit to couples as does not address the fundamental issue that register office ceremonies are restricted in numbers as they can only be carried out at a statutory fee, and this is below cost recovery for most register offices. They are also restricted to the smallest room with a no frills approach. If the cost recovery issue were addressed and local authorities were able to charge what it costs them to deliver, local authorities would open up availability, and give more couples the opportunity to marry at a low cost, and in nicer surroundings
2. Not sure what savings will actually be realisable. Main cost staff time which may be slightly reduced as only one staff member attending, but the current approval process for one venue split between all couples marrying there over 3 year licence. If have officiant has to check location seemly and dignified each time, then that one couple will bear the cost of this process. So whilst it offers greater choice, our views is that it will not offer savings.
3. Our view is that is not really an issue - many couples having 2 ceremonies either do so as this is what they want ie destination wedding abroad and the legal "bit" done here, and this will not change; or they have a small legal ceremony in the register office or town hall, so the level of saving will be minimal ie less than couple of hundred pounds.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. the costs may be prohibitive if it is new venue or venue which only does very small number ceremonies. Otherwise cost effective when spread over a number of ceremonies in 3 years. City of Westminster offers good value for money – its a reasonable fee and includes support from registrars including marketing advice and promotion.

If the venue does multiple ceremonies costs recovered easily over life of licence. there is some examples of local authorities (eg Merton) who offer free (or low cost) introductory licences where venues need encouragement or want to test whether they will get bookings to justify the cost

2. City of Westminster has no issue supplying registrars for ceremonies, and has supported other districts where they have had short term issues finding sufficient registrars for a day. Westminster have expanded the team to accommodate extra ceremonies and grow the ceremony service. Our costs fully reflective the cost of the service to Westminster (to ensure local taxpayers do not subsidise weddings), and are comparable with other neighbouring LAs.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Whilst it may offer more choice. it won't affect huge numbers of people who will still choose traditional venues. There is a danger that by removing the approval process, venues lose access to the practical advice registrars offer those venues including marketing and promotion advice, as they will no longer have a direct relationship.
2. The Law Commission proposed scheme may result in less registrars available, as demand will be difficult to predict and therefore resource appropriately. Sessional registration staff are often contracted to work a certain number of days a year eg in Westminster on zero hour contracts 1 in 3 weekends peak period, 1 in 6 in off peak - but if we don't know what demand we are likely to have we won't be able to predict this working pattern, meaning we won't be able to offer zero hours contracts and have to switch to less beneficial casual contracts with mutuality of obligation of offer and accept work, leaving staff in a more precarious position and resulting in many staff choosing to be come independent officiants instead. The best registrars may decide to become independent officiants anyway. If the local authority can't pay what need to pay to retain them, then LAs may not be able to resource to the levels of demand.

3. May result in more bookings for venues.

4. Not necessarily going to mean more ceremonies in England and Wales – our view is that they is likely to be a similar number of weddings, but more spread out across more locations / venues. Destination weddings abroad are likely to continue in similar numbers as the choice of a number of couples.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Currently whilst there may be some frustrations with the current law, registration services run by local authorities are generally well regarded. There is scope for modernisation around the preliminaries for marriage, as rules on residency, public exhibition of notices are outdated and the lack of central checks on couples documents. In addition the requirement for two registrars , and the prohibition of any religious content in a civil marriage, is restrictive and outdated.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Our view is that it will potentially mean less ceremonies for local authorities, which will result in less income and resultant job losses (at a time when GRO modernisation agenda will also result in job losses). This could be mitigated if civil registrars can also act as independent officiants, outside their own local authority. The danger is by opening up to independent celebrants, we will lose the checks and balances already in place.

We are concerned that civil registrars will become the choice of last resort, rather than a positive choice by couples. As such we will be left with small, cheaper ceremonies, during the week that other celebrants will not want to do as they offer no financial incentive. This means we will lose the ability to

generate an income that covers other part of the service which do not generate an income. We believe this will be an added burden on local authorities, and it will become increasingly difficult to maintain a cost effective registration service, fully resourced, and highly skilled.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We agree its is complicated and confusing – eg. residency requirement, different processes, rules

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

We feel it will be simpler and should make it easier, but requires reciprocal arrangements across other jurisdictions to be truly effective

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

1. Income from ceremonies subsidizes other parts of registration service, enabling most to be cost neutral. If not longer possible to generate surplus income from ceremonies then local authorities will have to bear cost of running registration services.

Impact on Local Registration Service if nationally set fees for travel etc, and discretionary add on services , is that for those local authorities where fee does not cover costs, will limit provision to the legal minimum, and this will drive couples into non belief organisations and independent celebrants, who will be able to charge higher fees.

We feel choice is a good thing, and widening the types of locations and venues as well as ceremony content is a good thing. But allowing independent officiants who will not be subject to the same costs, local government checks and balances etc will potentially have a huge impact of the ability of registration services to continue.

Potential local registration services will become the provider of last resort, losing income. It may result in more regional variation in services as each local authority cuts its cloth accordingly – subsidising ceremonies or not. Could end up with the bare legal minimum service as recession and post covid impact bites.

Our concern is that town hall ceremonies not really addressed – these are bread and butter work of local registration service, and support the service to generate income to cover other costs (ie non cost reflective notices, RO ceremonies etc). the registration service controls often their decommissioned marriage rooms, and has exclusive use for ceremonies. If independent officiants and non belief organisations take a proportion of these ceremonies as the couples choice, this then will jeopardise the ability of the registration service to continue to offer them. For example– eg Saturday of 20 ceremonies at Old Marylebone Town Hall, registrars are paid by the hour or given TOIL for full number of hours. However if for example, other officiants make up 33% of those ceremonies, this will result in large gaps in registrars time when idle, but still being paid for. This may result in not being able to justify the cost against income generated, and so will stop offering registrars for ceremonies. Danger registrars will end up with weekday low key, low income ceremonies and lose the larger more expensive ceremonies which generate the income to subsidise the weekday ceremonies, again jeopardising the ability of the registration service to remain self funding and therefore to remain offering those ceremonies. Couples may be left with higher cost non belief or independent officiants who will charge more as have to travel and can set own fees.

Costs of civil registrars will be higher than other officiants by the very nature of their employment as part of the local authority. Costs do not just take into account the salaries of staff involved (plus NI and pension), but the whole infrastructure of the service they work within, so will also include supplies and services; building related costs; internal recharges etc. In addition staff are not productive in a front line service sense for their full 36 / 37.50 hours per week – they will have time set aside for admin duties inc. accounting; training; line management; team meetings; corporate events and comms, plus will have annual leave and sickness.

Won't have intended impact on couples ie reducing cost. Ceremony part often the cheapest part of getting married, and whilst broadening locations and allow content that will make ceremony more meaningful, cost will be similar, or only slightly cheaper

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFN6-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:52:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This makes sense

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The actual ceremony itself should reflect the dignity and solemnity of the marriage occasion.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage ceremony should not be whatever words a person likes, there are already prescribed words for weddings, let's keep them, not a free for all.

Of course the 2 people must be present, something wrong if they can't even turn up for own wedding!

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Let's stick to the dignity of the occasion, the ceremony should reflect the dignity of the marriage which is a union recognised by the public and the state.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is also a public matter, in front of the general public they are recognised as married.

This also helps prevent forced marriages - this issue still exists, so open doors a great idea.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once again dignity and solemnity should be upheld, no it shouldn't be held just anywhere.

Err on caution not licence for anywhere.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is an affront to God/the church to use religious buildings for wedding ceremonies that specifically do not want to acknowledge God.

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But this should be stringent, stringent safeguards used.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need safeguards.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMV-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:56:01

### About you

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Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I understand that a marriage is the exclusive, intended to be lifelong union of a couple, and a wedding ceremony is the public declaration of that union. It is legally defined, so the words used in that declaration should also be legally defined, even if the couple should wish to add to it. Giving complete freedom of the wording will, if one is not careful, lead it being taken to mean whatever the couple want it to mean, rather than an institution recognised by society from time immemorial.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is the public declaration of the couple's exclusive union and is recognised by society. It is not merely a personal matter between the two parties, so the ceremony should reflect the serious nature of the commitment being entered into.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration of a couple's intention to form a lifelong union. Society has an interest in knowing who is married to whom, it is not merely a private matter. Having the ceremony in public also protects against forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As said elsewhere, a wedding is a serious, public commitment between a couple. Permitting a wedding to take place anywhere can prevent it being public and can undermine the seriousness of the event. The location should be dignified and allow public access.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

There should be no hindrance to wedding taking place in an outdoors location, again, provided the public has access and the location is dignified. The other suggested locations prevent that public access. The only exception might be in hospital or private homes if a member of the couple is terminally ill.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my comments about weddings being public events.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there needs to be guidance as to what constitutes a safe and dignified wedding location.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is to make sure there are agreed standards.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHW-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 12:58:21

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries



Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not so practical nowadays as it was formerly

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Difficult to weigh up whether exposed to a risk of harm

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

After securing satisfaction of the validity of the reason for withdrawal of the originally named officiant

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Possibility of war cannot be excluded

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

That seems a reasonable stipulation

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This would eliminate the possibility of a forced marriage

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Would support this

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

These should be excluded

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Provided these organisations are checked as to their validity

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The upper limit on fees should be a legally set amount or percentage.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a further layer of supervision of the proposed content of the ceremony to ensure a level of dignity

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would represent an infringement of individual liberty and its removal would serve no purpose

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This present requirement allows for the stopping of an enforced marriage

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be provision to ensure the place chosen reflects the dignity and the importance of the ceremony and its binding nature

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Cannot see how "in the air" could protect the dignity of the occasion - and this criteria should apply to other unconventional chosen venues, which should be subject to a degree of oversight before being sanctioned

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not in Welsh only as it is not a widely known language outside Wales

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses and signatures should remain mandatory

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The annulment of the ceremony if the marriage has not been consummated should be retained, or if the couple have not cohabited for any period after its celebration

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided there is a guarantee that this stipulations can be acted upon rapidly

### Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There seems to be no reason why this should be changed

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With reasonable checks

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Too difficult/complicated to ensure validity if in international waters

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be open to abuse

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A discretionary lower fee should be allowed

### Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Cost of fees could be a deterrent, so these must be minimal.



Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There should be a separate provision made for a couple on a very low income.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFSJ-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:01:38

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

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If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage should be properly planned.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Online or post communication should only be used to arrange and communicate in-person interviews.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be done after proper consideration.  
Seven days is not enough time . A longer periode is imperative.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should take place in-person, particularly when concerns arise.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should continue.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Non religious organisations should only do civil partnerships not marriages.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only religious organisations can conduct weddings. Non religious organisations should undertake civil partnerships.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants shouldn't be able to officiate a wedding.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason for non-religious believers to officiate a wedding as it should be called a civil ceremony instead.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

General Register Office should not interfere or guide religious weddings as it is a non religious organisation.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Religious organisations should do that, as they are the ones appointing our authorising nominees, not the general register office.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made. There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways. It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into. The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is against the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Those shouldn't be called weddings.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be official and legally permitted and never repealed.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations. The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings taking place anywhere will undermine the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building). This should not legitimise inappropriate settings. Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. This is completely inappropriate and incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the location is tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Location must be tested for “dignity” and “safety”.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Location must be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. A cruise ship or an airplain is not a dignified location for a wedding.

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Non-religious belief couples should conduct civil partnerships.

Religious couples should conduct weddings.

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment.

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Lack of rigor undermines the real purpose of marriage.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNR-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:02:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Introducing this would ,are is easier for sham marriages to take place. This is an area that the Home Office already has significant difficulty in investigating. Therefore abolishing this rule makes trying to investigate such marriages all the harder.

I also question who would benefit from such an amendment - the pool of people must be minuscule.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For the reasons outline in Q4 above.

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

If registry staff have concerns about the couple, it is important to give government departments the time to be alerted and to investigate if they consider necessary. Seven days in my opinion should be a minimum standard.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews are a possibility, so long as they contain video and as well as audio. This is to deter substitution which could easily occur if audio only. Video interviews also enable the interviewer to pick up on non-verbal behavioural indicators.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agreed.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

My only Conner with this question is how will the responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnly of marriage be measured. These two words mean different things to different people, so there is a clear need for guidance to be issued to ensure the dignity and solemnity of the occasion is not lost. After all marriage is a solemn commitment between two people and the environment in which it is conducted should reflect this.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clear guidance is always important in enabling officiants to ensure they meet appropriate standards.

Consultation Question 37:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Unless of course the Registrars office is made aware of instances where it needs to act regardless.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My concern here is who determines what CPD is necessary for an individual or organisation. There are a number of areas, especially around religious belief, where there are stark differences between what the church teaches (and many people believe) verses what government allows through legislation.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple want to get married it is surely not unreasonable to expect them both to be present at their own wedding! Indeed any law abiding couple would want to be together at their ceremony. How would signing a marriage schedule meet the definition of marriage being a dignified and solemn occasion?

Couples have wide leeway to range their wedding ceremonies as they would like. The few prescribed words that they must say, in accordance with the public declaration, would be a major shift away from this position. Allowing them to say any words that they wish or none at all makes the ceremony simplistic. Again how does this meet the definition of a dignified and solemn occasion. This approach risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made. The commitment that the couple make to each other is important and showing that they freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into is in mind important.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Getting married is a serious commitment. Marriage ceremonies should reflect this commitment and should not just be allowed just because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant life event.

Couples already have numerous choices about their wedding day, including the ceremony itself. Apart from the two becoming one, so to speak, a wedding is also a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

The more that wedding ceremonies are belittled, the less importance they will attract. This has serious ramifications not just for the couple but for society itself. Marriage is an important corner stone for just and tolerant societies. The state should not be therefore be trying to denigrate it so it becomes simply another secular activity with no real meaning whatsoever.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment between two people. It should be a dignified and also a joyful occasion. Recognising these twin values, we should ensure that venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

I recognise that there might be some benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed, for example where churches do not own their own building), but it is important that this should not legitimise inappropriate setting, such as ceremonies "in the air". This seems to suggest that the test of a safe and dignified environment is almost forgotten. What next, wedding ceremonies at McDonald's or the local fish and chip shop?

So in widening wedding venues, clear rules should be set to ensure any leniency in the current arrangement are not abused.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Not sure how any of the above could be considered suitable for dignified wedding ceremonies.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is opening up the flood gates. what is 'safe' and what is 'dignified'? If it is down to one sole officiant to decide, anything could be allowed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Getting married means co-habiting!

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHM-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:03:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

- County -

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This does not seem a burdensome requirement and will help to prevent marriage tourism, trivial or forced marriages

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

War is not impossible again

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

These seem sensible for a such weddings

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Again seems sensible. Forced marriages or marriage of those not entirely sure are still problems leading to early marital breakdown.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to some very unsuitable officiants being nominated

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

How can non-religious organisations meet for "worship" The conflating of the two different worlds in this consultation represents some internal logical inconsistencies which do not bode well for the outcome

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Public policy can be a transient and illogical as the organizations that nominate and this all sounds very muddled. If contrary to law that is one thing but "public morality" is a very chameleon creature

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. There are many people in office in every institution who are not suitable to conduct weddings and would not wish to and some in both categories

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A free for all does not bode well for the future of marriage

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A sure fire way to ensure there are no overall standards properly monitored

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answer

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Las Vegas style wedding chapels are the very last thing we need if marriage is to mean anything at all

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some indicative table of fees should be in place to prevent exploitation by "celebrity celebrants"

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why would they want to be if they are freelance officiants?

Why would you want to stop them if you permit freelancers?

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is meaningless without stating what the dignity and solemnity consists of? If left up to the officiant we again have the potential for a free for all. Is a scuba diving underwater ceremony dignified?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Is guidance alone sufficient? If there is no specification of content at all then surely a recitation of the telephone directory for 30 mins could suffice?

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office or a national body should be responsible. Self regulation easily lapses in to laziness and complacency

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

should be case anyway if the body acts or not. Action itself can be ineffectual by the other body and a mere token gesture

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

if they are permitted which they should not be - see previous response on this

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A time limit of say 10 years or so seems sensible before reregistration

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

orally or otherwise is too imprecise. A deaf couple may express it in sign language but a signed document by an absent party does not seem to be precluded by this loose wording and that is asking for trouble - forced marriage bonanza is not what you intend here I guess? But it does appear to be permitted?

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

With no limits at all? See scuba diving wedding comment previously

This precludes or short circuits dignity and solemnity surely - except the undefined variety which is an Alice Through the Looking Glass approach

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Does not religious content mean its religious? A drop of ink in a glass of water makes all the water inky?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Covid has shown how difficult arranging a religious ceremony can be - If marriage is important to a religious couple they may well want a religious ceremony following a civil one undertaken of necessity rather than choice? Why prevent this?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Getting married is by its nature a public event not a private affair like cohabitation.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some places are intrinsically undignified but if you allow a free for all someone somewhere will go out of their way to indulge in the undignified - a marriage in the Chamber of Horrors for example at Tussauds ?

Please share your views below:

Outdoors seems reasonable

Airplanes and hot air balloons or a kayak do not seem dignified

Weddings are home again preclude or hamper the public significance of marriage

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil marriages have the same public significance as religious ones

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not unreservedly - there should be limits imposed as per earlier answers

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again a free for all for weddings in the Chamber in Horrors as per earlier answers The Register Office should set limits and define its terms. Dignity is a very slippery concept as Prof Ruth Macklin has made clear!

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not just guidance but setting limits. An underwater wedding is by definition unsafe?

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A mandatory process rather than optional

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office  
Official trained inspectors

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hacking is always possible

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are v important

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

exception for marriage in a private home if one of couple is housebound and private homes are prohibited as a general rule

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Vulnerable people who could be exploited for money rather than marriage

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Prognoses are notoriously unreliable.

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too open to abuse

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are all at risk of death at the time of answering during the pandemic

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding already take place at sea Do you mean in the sea itself? If so then you you have asked a ludicrous question

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need checking

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFM7-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:12:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a private citizen.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My wife is now deceased

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not just through their own demeanour but also by ensuring that all those present maintain the dignity and solemnity of the occasion

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple should declare their willingness to marry by oral declaration during the ceremony in the presence of the public

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is such a significant commitment that couples should observe the authorized format.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are meant to take place in the presence of the public. Open doors are important

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should only take place where the officiant can maintain the dignity and solemnity of the occasion.

Please share your views below:

Again I think it is important to maintain the dignity and solemnity of the occasion

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Asove

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

He/she must ensure that the location provides certainty that the dignity and solemnity of the occasion can be maintained

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding involves a very public and personal willingness to marry.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with same-sex marriages. The couple concerned should find a suitable alternative title for "Marriage". Civil Partnership would do.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Maintain dignity and solemnity might be difficult

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The cost of the actual wedding ceremony is rarely prohibitive. What really discourages some couples is the cumulative cost of Receptions, Champagne, Flowers, Music, Meals, Photographers, etc which raise the cost on an average Wedding to £25,000 - 00 +

I am all in favour of a simpler format costing say £5,000

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFH9-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:12:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a registered marriage.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it is very important that couples think very carefully before becoming married, that they prepare adequately for it and that their change of status is carefully recorded.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that prior notification and a personal interview are important.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

It should be significantly longer than one week.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Any such interviews or meetings should take place in person.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have an opinion on this question.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. I think that a more flexible arrangement should be permitted.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, to both questions.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I have no opinion on this question.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I think that the religious weddings should continue to be recognised at least as widely as today.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to the definition of officiant being more widely interpreted than at present, including the Ministers of other religions.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to the formalities outlined.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Any organisations that are recognised for this purpose should have a defined ethical belief system which is available in the public arena.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agreed.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The standing and affiliation of officiants should be clearly defined.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to represent an actual 'conflict of belief'. The person concerned would have a different understanding of the meaning of marriage from a substantial proportion of those at whose wedding they would be officiating.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is very important, but should be set out more widely. These requirements should extend to the content of the ceremony, not merely its externals. 'Solemnity' should be spelt out in some detail as it may otherwise be purely subjective.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to this guidance relating only to the actual legal, as opposed to religious, part of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it would be normal practice to have some time limit (say 10 years) even if renewal would normally be more or less automatic.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to a realistic view of what comprises 'continuing professional development' in this context. This should be primarily related to any changes in legislation that may be introduced from time to time. Bureaucracy should be avoided at all costs.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The attendance of both parties at the ceremony should be a fundamental requirement.

The couple should be required to state their consent and lifetime commitment in public. The signing of the Register should merely record their change to legal status. The public nature of the ceremony and its implications for the wider society should continue to be made apparent.

The formality and solemnity of the ceremony should be maintained at all times, although with the variations in aspects (dress, music, setting et cetera) that are already accepted.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

While some of the externalities may be tailored to meet the personal tastes of the couple, the core elements of the ceremony should always be maintained. This should avoid any doubt as to the validity of the process and ensure that those taking part remain aware of the solemnity and wider

significance of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the option remaining for a separate specifically religious ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The civil wedding ceremony is a requirement of the State, primarily to register the marriage. A separate religious ceremony (as permitted in many countries) does not conflict with this but can be a particularly important element for religious communities.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In order to reflect the significance and solemnity of marriage, weddings should always take place in an appropriate setting. Premises should be registered for the purposes of holding weddings and the necessary minimum standards should be officially checked prior to issuing a registration. Registration should be in place before any weddings can be booked at that location.

Permitting weddings to take place 'anywhere' would undermine the solemnity and dignity of the occasion.

Please share your views below:

Weddings should take place on dry land (subject to the agreement to weddings at sea under certain circumstances) and in an appropriate dignified place . This might include an outdoor setting, for example in a garden registered for this purpose.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location should be approved in advance before any weddings can be arranged there. The use of random and unapproved locations should be avoided if the solemnity, dignity, permanence and social significance of marriage is to be maintained and reinforced.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As noted in my previous responses I have argued that weddings should only take place in locations that have been checked, approved and registered for this purpose. The safety and dignity of any such locations should be scrutinised in this process in accordance with detailed guidance that should be issued by the General Register Office.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to the location being approved in advance and registered for this purpose.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, subject to this being a requirement rather than an option.

Please share your views below:

The officiant should be responsible for ensuring that the location is registered for holding weddings or, if it has not been previously, for ensuring that a registration is applied for. The registration process will, as previously noted, ensure that it meets the required standard if it is to be successful.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In order to maintain the solemnity and dignity of the occasion and to ensure that all concerned remain aware of its significance, the physical completion of the Register should be retained at all times. This may be supplemented by electronic registration if required, but this is likely to fail as a long-term record.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding should always involve a ceremony as recorded in response to the earlier questions.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too speewing a provision.

No

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should take place at a location on land registered for this purpose.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As previously noted, such locations should be approved and registered in advance.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think that the current law discourages those who wish to get married from doing so, neither do I think that the changes which have been outlined are likely to lead to a significant increase. At present it appears that this is very much a 'lifestyle choice' which is not generally influenced by the legal framework. There are few incentives, apart from personal preference, to get married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This is almost always a matter of personal preference. The social/family pressures that previously directed couples towards marriage are now largely absent. Once they have decided to marry, the present range of options is wide enough to accommodate most tastes. The full range of societal and other factors is allowed for, apart from the absence of dignity and commitment in some instances.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The combining of religious and civil ceremonies would be a benefit to many. The use of a variety of locations would be seen as an advantage but this could often be at the expense of the solemnity of the occasion and the emphasis on the commitment that both parties to the wedding make.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The requirements should remain, though the costs associated with them should be reviewed from time to time to ensure that they are appropriate. The approval of a wider pool of officiants could reduce the cost of individual weddings, depending on the circumstances.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Registration of the venue should remain a requirement. The other potential changes might produce some benefits in update and commercial returns.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This might be of benefit by allowing UK registered ships to provide the services that ships of other nations already do.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNV-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:16:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see any good reason why this should be changed . A week is not long for a couple to reflect on what they plan to do

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No I don't think that is a good idea. You will not be able to detect forced or sham marriages remotely

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with further devolution

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree with these requirements

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I suspect there could be an increase in illegal weddings otherwise

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 members is very low numbsr.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes:I do think an groups should be excluded

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present law should remain

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should be public

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be in a fit and dignified setting . Could be outdoors but not for example on a swing, balloon or other gimmicky loca tion.

Please share your views below:

Not in the air



Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAF-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:17:56

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

none

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No close friends or family were married during pandemic

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Impractical to live in registration district and not essential

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sensible modernisation

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

7 days seems very short to allow for other arrangements necessary for a wedding. Suggest 1 month

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Not happy with remote interviews. Keep to the real world with real face-to-face interviews.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but not only on-line, but also existing notice arrangements

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense!

Please share your views below:

Yes, with the agreement of the parties

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are a united kingdom. Let us not seek further division. A UK citizen has a UK marriage.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No opinion

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both. The marriage and test of eligibility should be equally valid wherever the ceremony is held.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, but if not geographically possible then through liaison between the two churches concerned

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the preliminaries are equi-valent then why not

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, proper controls are necessary

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be able to officiate at non-Anglican church weddings as at present. Most Christians in the UK are non-Anglican and would not, under the proposal, be able to be married in their chosen place of worship. Ditto Muslims etc.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they have appropriate training.

Consultation Question 23:



No

Please expand on your answer:

There would be loss of control of the process and too much variation for marriage to be seen to be consistently conducted across the UK

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The existing civil marriage arrangements should suffice.

Please share your views below:

Far too complicated. Keep to existing arrangements - recognise religious ceremonies by training of officiants, or by attendance by registrar. Non-religious events are, by definition, civil ceremonies and should continue as at present.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This helpfully caters for non-Anglican churches

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Organisations with 'Purposes that are unlawful' are clearly not fit for officiating at marriage ceremonies.

Organisations with purposes 'contrary to public policy or morality' is going to be too difficult to define. Organisations have a right to be counter-cultural, within the law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Named individuals only, and then only with appropriate training.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Good control mechanisms essential

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

OK, with appropriate training

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unless there is Government control of training and verification process.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Answers my earlier concerns

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This conflicts with no. 32. A nominal fee should be charged to cover time and local travel only.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the problem? In terms of their function the officiants are strictly neutral and are performing a legal function. If they are asked to do religious duties in addition, then that is a different matter and the organisation has the right to choose whom they use, and the officiant has a right to refuse the religious element (as at present) and attend as witnesses for all but the essential legal elements.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely essential

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consistency across the UK

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation may be the first to monitor fitness, but the State should have ultimate sanction if there is dispute

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This fits with my comments on 37

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Like a driving license, times change and people age, so occasional re-authorisation is important.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This answers 40 above

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed EXCEPT 1(b). The couple should each be prepared publicly to express that they know of no legal impediment to this marriage. There is no loop-hole in such a statement, whereas silence on the matter, notwithstanding what may be in the preliminaries, could lead to problems later.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense, and prevents interference from other parties

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, as long as the minimum essential declarations are clearly made - preferably in a common format across the UK

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense, as for example, an extract from a scripture could be quoted to encourage the couple, or a hymn played, without it become a fully religious service.

Please share your views below:

See above.

A piece of music

A poem or scripture

A simple prayer of blessing for the couple, by a friend or family

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly no permission need be sought once the State is satisfied as to the validity of the civil ceremony. Assuming of course that the religious ceremony is not on State property!

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no view on this. I would prefer 'open door' but sadly accept that security could be an issue for some weddings.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not anywhere, see 49

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

The ticked locations above would not lend dignity to the occasion and are not necessary, they are frivolous. Stay on land!  
Private homes would be acceptable given particular health needs of the parties.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

No problem - but only if the venue stakeholders are in agreement

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Part of the training.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely essential

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consistent application

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, as long as the dignity of the location is unchanged (eg the decor does not vary from one marriage to the next)

Please share your views below:

Registration Office - but only by application from a venue that has already held a ceremony and wants to be listed for the future

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The choice of the parties

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I prefer a digitised copy of a paper/signed in ink .

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2. Witnesses are essential and prevent to some extent coercion. All legal documents are witnessed by non-officiating persons, and marriage should also be witnessed

3. Signing is essential to a legal process (with provision of course for hand-writing disability)

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony becomes legal, irrespective of the cohabitation. Religious bodies may require consummation but that is not relevant to the legality of the contract

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Presumption is a fluid thing! We should keep it clear - you are either legally married through due process (with the legal benefits that marriage brings) , or you are cohabiting and do not enjoy the benefits.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The role of an Officiant is a very serious one.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Special provision/exception should be allowed for terminal illness (marriage in a hospice bed, for example) AND for those housebound or long term hospital patients. In the latter case. only when the marriage schedule has already been agreed etc and movement elsewhere is just not possible, and with agreement of hospital.

A prison sentence ought not to forfeits the right to marriage during the sentence. However, I am not sure how best to manage that situation.

In prison on remand (ie still legally innocent) should not be a barrier to marriage 'outside' at the agreed venue - with necessary security of course

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

as with any other marriage.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand the issues involved

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, but not as a second best, only in dire emergency - national or private.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Risk of death? We are all at risk. This is too vague.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, but not in frivolous environments (see earlier responses)

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

HM naval ships

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant should be named and approved in usual way (unless emergency rules apply)

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Probably best for civil marriage only. If parties want religious blessing etc then the ship authorities can decide on appropriate chapels on board etc etc.  
Not HMG decision.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

BUT they should at least electronically send a scan copy within the usual time limit.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Conflicts with 76?

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think it marginal that there will be an increase in marriages due to these proposals. The biggest block to marriage is the (unfounded) perception that it will cost £000s

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not much change. if couples want a legal marriage these proposals will not make much difference.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The biggest bar to marriage is the huge cost of the whole event - not the legal ceremony.  
People need encouragement to get married and have a cheap 'whole event'.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

no particular view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

no particular view

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Needs adjustment to local procedures but it will soon settle into a new normality

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



no particular view

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no particular view or experience

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no particular view or experience

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no particular view

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

no particular view

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Initial small increase in cost. But new costs will be covered by fee structure which I hope will not be onerous on poorer couples. The fact is that a current license is still 'cheap' - long may that continue. Its the event trimmings that are exorbitant.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAW-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:18:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

Revd Dr Nigel Scotland

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I don't have one. I have been a University and College lecturer almost all my life.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Not applicable.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It seems to me that we need to take a little care to know details about those intending to marry. They might already be in a marriage with one or more other persons or be criminals or people on the run or using false documents.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would surely be wise that notice should be given where both parties live and where they intend to get married. It is in these locations that they are more likely to be known

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I think three weeks would be the best general rule. Why the rush? If people need to get married in a very short time they can get a special license.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Marriage needs to be treated seriously and a personal interview facilitates this in the best possible way.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I think this should be possible provided that notice should also be given in the place of their residence on land

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public ceremony and to publish details of it on line seems eminently right. On line publication on its own is not sufficient.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think probably yes it enables people to plan ahead.

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It may well be that the officiant might be unwell or die if the marriage is planned several months ahead.

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The substitute should be any person trained and validated by the church, humanist society or institution chosen by those to be married.

Please share your views below:

This question needs to explain 'other circumstances'.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I can see no valid reason for this proposal.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Who would want to marry in a war damaged church?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They should be published in the places where both parties have their residence otherwise it could amount to a secret wedding.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Checking is always wise.

I think it is only necessary for the minister taking the wedding service to see both parties.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes I think this declaration should be made by both parties at the time the couple request banns to be called. It should be a criminal offence to give false information.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the C of E is the established church of the nation this should be continued for the C of E.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. I agree.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes this makes sense. People would not plan a wedding in church if they wanted a civil registrar to officiate.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

What would be the purpose of having two?

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes in the case of the C of E which is a state church at the moment.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

You need a precise definition of religion in order to answer this question. What about paganism, witchcraft, Scientology etc?

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What about an additional wife for a Muslim man or a Mormon polygamist?

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I would want to know what is included by public policy or morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

It depends what it meant by office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is vital to have persons of good standing.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This starts to get too complicated and difficult to administer.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. They should be externally checked.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is good common sense.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a fixed agreed payment for conducting a marriage ceremony the same for every organisation.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The government must fix a standard fee for the basics.

Many churches charge far too much.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This saves confusion.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely - a no-brainer.

If we don't take marriage seriously we will completely destroy the fabric of our society and our nation. This is what destroyed the entire Roman Empire

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Couples must express their commitment in a legal binding way to make it a marriage.  
In the case of a Christian marriage should include till death us do part.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I think it should be a legal requirement that all organisation submit a copy of their wedding service and it should be required to be serious and dignified.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People who have been divorced may be glad to have a religious service following.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should not be made totally private. Marriage is a public institution. This will guard against forced marriages

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a thoroughly stupid and irresponsible idea.

Please share your views below:

Only in suitable public buildings

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And the officiant should be instructed as to what is appropriate.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The organisation arranging the wedding.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The fees for conducting a wedding should be similar in all cases where ever it takes place.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHQ-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:22:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Retired headteacher

Formerly CEO of a UK parenting charity

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A minimum residential requirement of seven days seems appropriate and should be maintained.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should also be published in the local parish church of the home addresses of both bride and groom and of any other home address within the previous three years of either or both participants.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes. It is essential for clergy to have that power, right and responsibility.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes; that is an essential protection against forced marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, it should exclude such organisations but with the proviso that "contrary to public policy" shall not inhibit the freedom of belief and religion and that, therefore, any aspect of public policy that prescribes or proscribes a secular or religious belief system shall be disregarded in respect of this proposed exclusion.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is so important that "dignity and solemnity" will need further clarification and definition, perhaps with supporting guidance giving examples of forms of ceremony, contexts and locations which could NOT be regarded as solemn and dignified.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Whether or not the declaration of "no impediment" is made within or prior to the marriage ceremony, it must remain a lawful declaration which is punishable in law if made dishonestly.

2. Supported

3. Supported

4. Supported, providing the signing of the declaration is not regarded as an acceptable substitute for participation in the ceremony!

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

DIY ceremonies devalue the standing of marriage. There is sufficient flexibility within the current statutes for couples to 'personalise' their wedding. It is important that standard forms for declaring lifelong love, commitment and faithfulness remain.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any subsequent religious service cannot be a repeat wedding but this provision, if enacted, will need to be carefully worded to retain the possibility that a couple who come to faith after their wedding can still have an appropriate form of service to affirm their vows before God or that married couples can reaffirm their vows on future occasions (as happens now in many churches).

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration of commitment so the public should not be prevented from witnessing the ceremony unless there are genuine security reasons for having closed doors.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some limit on the appropriateness of wedding locations to maintain the solemnity and dignity of the ceremony. The current licensing system should remain with perhaps the additional flexibility of enabling officiants or their organisations to apply for a special licence if it is necessary and appropriate for the ceremony to be held elsewhere.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoor ceremonies should be permissible but NOT on water, in the air or in private homes. Weddings need to remain as public ceremonies with appropriate dignity and solemnity.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings need to remain as public ceremonies of commitment.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Church weddings must be reserved for religious ceremonies. However, some churches don't have their own building and so a religious wedding should be possible in a secular building (e.g. a school).

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But within some nationally prescribed limitations of appropriateness for solemnity and dignity.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But, alone, these requirements are not sufficient for reasons explained above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNJ-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:22:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None I am retired

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am of the opinion that a somewhat longer period would be much better to prevent the possibility of rash "spur of the moment" decisions to marry

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Again a somewhat longer period in order to give full time for couples to be quite sure of their intention to marry and to prevent rash decisions

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is my opinion that interviews should always be face to face, again in order to prevent rash decisions which would undermine the serious nature of marriage

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I am unsure about this question

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this proposal

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this proposal

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I t would be appropriate if only serious organisations with an interest in how people lead their lives, should be considered. For example I would not consider the golf club or the knitting circle to be appropriate organisations

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Definitely yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Again I would want such organisations to be serious organisations with a positive view of the meaning and seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again definitely yes in order to preserve the proper and true nature of marriage

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Clearly if this provision were not accepted marriage would become a business and no doubt frivolous

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that should be a limit so as to prevent marriage becoming a business

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This one is probably alright

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I could not agree more. This provision is most important

Consultation Question 36:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again to uphold the value , worth and importance of marriage for the cohesion of society

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I think it might be much better if their fitness should be judged by an independent body

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure about this

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it would be far better if there continues to be a requirement to express consent at the ceremony and also in certain prescribed terms which fully embody the commitment which the parties are showing to each other. Without some formal terminology the marriage ceremony could become a frivolous and meaningless procedure

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some formula which identifies the seriousness and hopefully permanent nature of the commitment. It is not just a question of what the couple wants, but also what is right for society

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I am somewhat ambivalent about this

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why a religious ceremony could not subsequently be held to confirm the couple's commitment in the light of their religious views

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again a wedding is not only of interest to the couple. It is a public matter with public consequences

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue must be a place where dignity is preserved. For example nobody, I hope, would want a wedding to take place in a public toilet.

Please share your views below:

Again I suggest that the dignity of marriage must be preserved also the public nature of marriage. In a home denies public access. Lakes rivers and in the air debase the significance of marriage

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my last answer

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I am somewhat ambivalent about 1 and 2. However I do think that non religious ceremonies should not take place in religious buildings

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some oversight of this

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would accord with my expressed views

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not optional but preferably approval by some separate authority

Please share your views below:

I am of the opinion that all these matters, location, selection of of locations, officiants, dignity of the occasion and the wording of the ceremony should be scrutinised by an independent body

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm very doubtful about this. It could lead to frivolous marriages and could be subject to abuse

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

I consider that the presence and signature of witnesses is important, again to indicate the public nature of marriage

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not think that the current law discourages marriage. providing that we are talking about marriage as a serious undertaking, with long term consequences for both the parties involved and for society in general. The proposals might increase the number of couples getting married, but would that be marriage as a serious commitment for life, or would it encourage frivolous and meaningless marriages of no more value or significance than a party, a night out, a game of chance or a gamble

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFN4-6

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:23:46

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, you need to better define "the dignity and solemnity of marriage". What would uphold this and what would not? For example, dressing up as characters from a book or film would, to my mind, not uphold them. Allowing ceremonies to take place in frivolous or distracting locations (or places so themed for the occasion), would not uphold them.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree with removing the "prescribed words". Since marriage is one of the foundations of our society and social fabric, the "prescribed words" used in the ceremony show that this is a serious matter and a serious commitment. as I understand it, there is already lots of flexibility in what is said beyond them.

Marriage is for the good of society and the family as well as the good of the couple. It shouldn't just be a self-defined ceremony that they can totally personalise to their tastes. There needs to be a basic set of conditions and assumptions about it.

I do not believe that someone should be able to be married without being present at the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per my answer to question 42, I do not agree with this. It promotes marriage as just another "consumer choice" and belittles it. Rather, it is about choosing and committing to live with someone for the rest of your days, to love them and care for them, through the good and the bad. The ceremony needs to reflect this serious and solemn commitment as well as celebrating it.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why do you want to remove the legal limitations on who can have those types of weddings? I think this could be abused by those who want to force such organisations to hold their wedding. I see no benefit in this for anyone else, or for society as a whole.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is for the good of society as a whole, but this proposal seeks to make it a private affair - again I see the "marriage as a consumer choice" concept which seems to be behind a number of these proposals. The declarations in the ceremony should be made in public, not in private.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that the wedding ceremony must remain a solemn and serious affair, so I don't agree with this. A wider range of locations could be allowed, but there should be limits on this. A wedding isn't a themed party but a ceremony for a life-long commitment.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Yes, there should be limits. My concern with having the ceremony outdoors is that our inclement weather could disrupt it. Having a wedding on the water or in the air sounds like a gimmick and undermines what the ceremony is about. The couple can host their reception in such locations after the ceremony. Having the ceremony in a private home again suggests that marriage is just a private affair, but it is not - it underpins our social fabric and is significant to society and the state.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If you do proceed with this proposal, then you need to properly define these terms and ensure there are good base standards, and give examples of what is dignified and what is not. I feel that how to determine the safety of a location is probably well explained by existing health and safety guidelines.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMT-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:31:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage. There needs to be further definition of 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.

The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.

The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declaration.

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society.

Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Please share your views below:

There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but we should take care that this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.

Some places are totally inappropriate as wedding venues if we are to protect the seriousness and dignity of the commitment being made.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNM-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:32:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree or religious organisations\* other than the Church of England or the Church in Wales but not for non-religious belief organisations.

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be illegal for them to undercut the staturorily laid down fee for Church of England marriages.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This however is not adequate. Officiants should also have a responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

There needs to be a definition of dignity and solemnity of marriage in statute law, rather than leaving it to be established by case law.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes for ministers of religion. No for other officiants.

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This implies that marriages could take place without both parties being present and expressing consent during the ceremony. This is not acceptable. Not making a public declaration would undermine the seriousness of the commitment being made and the dignity and solemnity of the marriage ceremony.

There is already much flexibility in the words that can be used, but some specific phrases should remain mandatory to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into by a public declaration.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a significant public ceremony, and the ceremony must be appropriate to such a significant event.

A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest and the form of the ceremony must be appropriate to this..

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public ceremony and the requirement for a wedding to take place with open doors, or otherwise for public access to be allowed makes this clear.

Allowing marriages in private encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a significant public ceremony, and the venue must be certified as being appropriate for such a ceremony and permitting public access by either being a Church or other place of worship or licensed by the local authority.

Please share your views below:

A marriage is a significant public ceremony, and venues such as these would not be appropriate for such a ceremony and permit public access.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be clear from the venue what sort of wedding ceremony is taking place.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venue must be certified as being appropriate for such a ceremony and permitting public access by either being a Church or other place of worship or licensed by the local authority.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a significant public ceremony, and the venue must be certified as being appropriate for such a ceremony and permitting public access by either being a Church or other place of worship or licensed by the local authority.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage document in Welsh only would not be readily understood outside Wales, therefore there should be an option of registering a marriage in both English and Welsh if it takes place in Wales, but otherwise it should be in English.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The absence of witnesses should render a marriage void, as it is a public ceremony, and independent confirmation that it took place and that both parties consented should remain.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with points 1 and 2, but not with 3 and 4, which would undermine the dignity, solemnity and seriousness of the commitment being entered into, and of certifying that it took place.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers regarding venues.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous answers regarding venues.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be contrary to the intent and probably the letter of the Equalities Act to charge someone who is housebound an additional fee.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The venue should be a Church or other place of worship or licensed by the Local Authority, therefore this question is does not arise.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be contrary to the intent and probably the letter of the Equalities Act to charge someone who is housebound an additional fee.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The costs of the actual ceremony are a small fraction of what most couples spend on an overall marriage celebration.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMC-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:34:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Anglican

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am appalled at the trivialisation of marriage as suggested by the Law Society. Marriage is the bedrock of British Society and the quickie divorce law, which has sadly already been passed, plus these new proposals if passed, will lead to more and more unsupported children in council care homes where most of them are very badly served and commence a life of criminality to the detriment of normal society.

With these marriage proposals it seems to me that the Law Society is hellbent on lining the pockets of its members with even more fees from more divorces.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMB-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:40:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is very difficult to ensure that consent is genuine over a screen.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why banns should not be transferable across nations.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I think they should be published wherever they are likely to be seen or heard by those who know the couple.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think these are helpful safeguards to ensure genuine consent by both parties and that both parties are who they say they are, neither has been married before, neither is deceiving the other about their biological sex or identity etc.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

As above, I think these are wise safeguards.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason to obligate couples being married in the Church of England to have secular preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure what the definition of a civil wedding is unless it is "a wedding officiated by a civil registration officer". If the question refers to, say, registration officers taking weddings in religious buildings, then I see no problem with that.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A list seems sensible: it should include, for example, political parties.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:



Please share your views below:

No, I don't think we should exclude that. Freedom of speech and freedom of thought require us to allow people with abhorrent views both to get married and to express their abhorrent views. I see no reason why they should not be allowed to do so at the same time.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I suspect that this is dangerous. It prevents proper safeguarding of new office-holders. There is no reason why a new individual cannot be nominated, when he or she assumes an office.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think private individuals should be able to become wedding officiants just because they want to. They should be nominated by some larger state or belief-based body. This is because marriage is an institution with an authority and value that transcends that of individuals.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above, I don't think private individuals should just be able to decide they want to officiate at weddings.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think limiting fees to manage the currently mushrooming costs of weddings is a very good idea.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the same individual could entirely appropriately lead religious and non-religious ceremonies, tailoring the content to the particular couple.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will need to be properly defined.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I see no reason why the GRO should presume to know more about this than the religious or belief-based bodies.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is important that the state not over-use this power and that there be legal safeguards to prevent this. Refusal to conduct same-sex weddings should not justify de-authorisation.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see what harm this provision does.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access is very important. Anyone should be able to attend, so that anyone can see that the couple is married and can object at the appropriate point in the service.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Great care must be taken regarding consent in unorthodox venues. A physical means of escaping the ceremony is a very important safeguard against coercion. For some people, the only way to escape forced marriage is to run away en route to the ceremony. On a plane, there is nowhere to run! See also my point above that public access is important.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above public access is important. Everyone needs to be able to know that the couple are married and to object. Marriage is necessarily public.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously, the owner of the venue must give permission, but if they do, I see no reason to restrict use.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No officiant should be forced by the law to preside at a wedding he or she believes is taking place in an inappropriate location.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

"Dignified" will need to be carefully defined.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure the GRO is the most appropriate body to arbitrate on dignity. I think the religious and belief organisations are better placed.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses are important for validity. Their absence renders a marriage void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my above point about public access.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See the above point about public access.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

See above on public access.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above, on public access.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above, on public access.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People who live or work on ships should arguably be allowed to get married on them, governed by the same officiant rules as on land.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

People who live or work on ships should be able to have religious weddings on ships.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registry officers should be able to charge what they like for checking out unusual locations.

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think local authorities should be able to charge more than what it costs.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The high costs of marriages today are not to do with the law - they are the fault of the wedding industry and the ballooning costs of dress, cake, car etc. The legal and religious fees are very good value and officials should have the right to raise them if necessary.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Allowing elaborate, exotic locations will raise costs, not lower them. It will increase the pressure to marry somewhere exciting and exotic, which will likely be much more expensive than a normal religious building or registry office.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

It will increase business for, eg, stately homes and hotels, if they can host religious weddings.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Religious and belief organisations should be charged nothing or minimal costs to get their officiants registered.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNA-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:42:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I'm in a marriage celebrated at my parish church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't see any reason for this, there is no explanation

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There are already many forced and sham marriages, remote interviews would make this far easier and should not be considered

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they are currently allowed to be used to authorise a marriage, I can't see any reason why this shouldn't continue

### Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

As of now, they should be published in the churches that both of the couple attend

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree with number 1 and feel that number 2 should depend on the incumbent rather than being a requirement

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

They already do this at the ceremony

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

agreed

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Our church is required to charge fees by the Church of England and in addition we charge for bells, choir, video recordings, the services of a vergers etc

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The question isn't very clear

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree but there is no definition of dignity and solemnity of marriage in this context; they need to be responsible for the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony so we don't get marriages like those in the United States taking place whilst skydiving or scuba diving

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as dignity and solemnity are as defined in Q 35

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Number 4 implies that the parties don't even have to have a ceremony, this is unacceptable.

The Church of England has a defined ceremony of marriage including public declarations and this is a fundamental requirement that needs to be retained in order to maintain the solemnity of the marriage ceremony; there are however options to add to the prescribed words so there is flexibility. It should not be possible for a couple to completely define what they say

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per Q42, the marriage ceremony is a defined set of statements and should continue to be prescribed as such

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican, Jewish or Quaker groups should be able to, as now, prescribe the words for the ceremonies that they conduct. Government should not interfere with this.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Couples should be allowed to have hymns sung and prayers said at these ceremonies as they are currently

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not! People should have the right to a religious service to be held if they so wish, I don't understand the reasoning by this proposal, it is absolute nonsense

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding ceremony is a public expression of a commitment and this should remain, it is also a significant protection against forced or sham marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of a marriage ceremony has already been discussed and places where this should be allowed to happen need to be strictly controlled and not where couples just fancy that the ceremony should take place.

How can such a ceremony be dignified and solemn at a rock concert or in a skydive or scuba dive as currently allowed in the USA as previously referred to.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

There should be limits on all of these venues, for example how could a ceremony be described as dignified and solemn at an outdoor music festival, water skiing on a lake or river, whilst sky diving or in a private home unless public access were allowed.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have already replied to say that marriages are public events and should stay as such

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

All these answers depend on whether the venue is considered to be a place where a dignified and solemn ceremony can take place

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Within official guidelines, otherwise officiants could overrule any decision about whether a venue is a place where a dignified and solemn ceremony can take place

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is a very open question as the rules for a safe and dignified venue aren't clearly defined

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is a very open question as the rules for a safe and dignified venue aren't clearly defined

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Some senior person in the locality and according to national guidelines

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why just choose Welsh? What about other languages?

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the errors are corrected within a set period to be defined

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problem at all with sick or housebound people

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the timescale for this is short

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't agree with 3 or 4 as once again, they could lead to scam or forced marriages

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depending on the above answer

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depending on the above answer

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to previous conditions relating to dignity and solemnity, for example in a boat but not whilst water skiing

Consultation Question 69:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

On boats such as cruise liners, for example aircraft carriers, destroyers but not small boats such as rowing boats

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely, whilst on a ship they would know who the celebrant was to be?

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I'm unsure, perhaps you should ask the Office for National Statistics

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Providing it doesn't prevent the marriage of such a person due to financial hardship

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a reduced fee possible for housebound persons

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFAD-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:44:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

No organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Because it is my views and it may not coincide with others I know and I don't want a rift

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And ensure contents and tone of ceremony as well as dignity and solemnity- is there a definition of those two words?

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1a should be oral

1b they should be required to express that there is no impediment at the ceremony

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should a required format

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public attendance may help prevent forced marriage

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The venues should be able to show that marriage is a dignified and serious undertaking

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But more clarity needed and application of safeguards

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNU-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:48:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private Individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Need sufficient time to verify statements made at these interviews.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Allowable for giving notice but it should be followed up by face to face interview at some period before the wedding.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided they are an approved and verifiable person

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible to have banns read in any Anglican Church.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

It is important that the clergy should interview the couple to ensure this is not a sham wedding.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should help to ensure there is joint consent given by each couple to minimize the occurrence of a sham wedding.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is a danger in allowing 2] that there is little protection that the officiant is not a frivolous or disreputable person or cult member.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This could lead to excessive State interference.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the individual is found to be of good character and integrity.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The Marriage Ceremony should never be turned into a profit making exercise.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should include all aspects of the whole marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony involves more than the couple and the officiant. It is also a public declaration of a life long commitment between the couple and is to be witnessed by other members of the public as part of a society in general and the Law in particular.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should be a serious commitment made by the couple and should demonstrate the seriousness of their marriage to each other and to show to the wider community that the couple appreciate this. Otherwise, unless the form of words used is unrestricted it can become a frivolous exercise of the lowest common denominator.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes they should such as the Christian verses from 1 Corinthians 13 verses 4 - 8

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. • Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again all sorts of frivolous and inappropriate places could be asked for by couples on what ever whim takes their fancy. Marriage is a serious commitment and the place of marriage should reflect that.

in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Again public access to view the ceremony should be paramount.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This must not restrict societal access to a wedding ceremony, the result of which is foundational to the building up a stable and viable society.

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a Publicly agreed set of venues.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMZ-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:48:41

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable (N/A)

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A



Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

No experience during the pandemic

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Belonging to a community is part of the wider acceptance and celebration of the union between a couple.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this in the days of the pandemic and particularly when concern arise as to the possibility of a sham or forced marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But not only the dignity of marriage but also of the ceremony itself which should be conducted in a fit and proper place with duly solemnity and dignity. This should not include the inclusion of loud music and "tacky" surroundings. If marriage is for life then the event of the union of a man and a woman in a marriage ceremony should be a life-enhancing experience. To be absolutely clear could not the Law Commission define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity' as this would put this issue beyond reasonable doubt.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above at 35.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties need to be present at the wedding ceremony and simply signing the declaration is inadequate. The form of words should include a public declaration of commitment to each other in words which are heard and firmly understood by all those present particularly their witnesses. There should continue to be a prescribed form of words used during the ceremony which may be slightly added to if required but the essentials of commitment to each other "until God do us part" sentiments should remain. Society needs this continuity as does the law.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This if permitted would lead to a trivialised view of marriage and the ceremony itself and the seriousness and solemnity of marriage would be marginalised by some. The ceremony is a significant event and not a 'walk in the park'.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A bible reading, say from the New Testament, which describes the meaning of love, or a biblical poem expressing commitment, etc.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Blessing of two persons in marriage within a religious service after a civil wedding ceremony is a great comfort to many and if the intention is that such a ceremony be not banned then I would agree.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are many safeguards within the 'open doors' policy and it should continue.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be necessary for the venue to be previously prescribed and authorised as being a reflection of the seriousness of the occasion. What is 'appropriate' may mean different things to different people but what is appropriate for society is important.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The local registrar officiant and his/her staff after consultation.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNP-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 13:50:11

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage of almost 50 years that is recognised by law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

The danger of remote interviews is that it is impossible to tell if the interviewee is under duress in the place whether they are or being held against their will

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Again this raises the issue of undue pressure being placed on someone to enter into the marriage against their will. And marriage is not just a piece of paper - it is a life's commitment

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This gives a point of contact if someone wishes to raise issues surrounding the proposed marriage

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided there is proof of the reason being valid

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

It is good to have them read where both parties reside

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

In this day and age this is essential if a wedding is to be seen as a binding legal contract

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes - to avoid any undue pressure on either party

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A sincerely held belief must involve marriage being seen as a lifelong commitment



Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is ESSENTIAL and should be taken seriously - the ceremony should reflect this as well - and 'dignity' and 'solemnity' should be expanded on.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should also be the General Register Office who people can contact to raise issues if they feel that their practices are not in order

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Expressing consent is only valid if what they are consenting to is stated as being a lifelong commitment to each other.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be a wishy washy not lasting statement - marriage is much more important than that. This is a lifelong commitment and promises made should reflect this

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There may be reasons why it is a civil ceremony but that should not prevent a religious ceremony afterwards

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is vital to ensure that neither party is being coerced

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a lifelong commitment - some dignity should surround the occasion

Please share your views below:

There needs to be open access as above - several of these would not be possible - and do they reflect the dignity and solemnity of what is happening?

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see above answer 48

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

only with the agreement of the religious venue organisation

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be some rules in place

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be rules in place for the officiant to abide by

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if these are detailed and stress the significance of what is being promised

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The level of security needs to be explored first

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a serious occasion - witnesses are vital as are the necessary signatures and registration

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This sounds like a marriage just for legal reasons where promises are not made intending to be kept

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a legal agreement for the protection of both parties

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

There are situations where it is absolutely right that weddings can take place in extreme situations - provided both parties are legally and mentally able to consent

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It may need to be a short notice of intention in extreme cases

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFN8-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 14:06:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is essential that marriage regulations ensure that sham or forced marriages are sage guarded against and made as difficult as possible. The law should make provision for such marriages to be annulled immediately should one of the participants draw attention to the fact that the marriage had taken place against their wishes, but had to be undertaken under duress/threats etc.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Dependent on the officiant being licensed to undertake such ceremony.

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Dependent on the officiate being licensed to carry out such ceremony

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Present rules are adequate

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The bona fides of those wishing to marry should be established by the Clergy. All means to ensure that bogus/sham weddings do not take place, should be taken

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, they should declare this; this helps to avoid forced or bigamous marriages.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England and Wales should retain the solemnity of the marriage ceremony. It is by nature a religious contract made before God, and the preliminaries are associated.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible to make changes to a prescribed marriage contract if it undermines the solemnity of the marriage; both couples must be in attendance at the ceremony, and the wording should always explain that the contract they are entering into is a lifetime contract.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow a free for all attitude to the marriage ceremony, whereas it should retain a dignified atmosphere stressing the importance of the contract, they are entering into. A wedding is a public declaration in which Society AND the State have an interest. To reduce it to some form of irrelevant game show, which is a distinct possibility, sends out the wrong signals. It is not just a bun fight, it is a contract which should set couples up for the serious business of bringing up children, teaching Family values, and embracing friendship, and thus a contract for life.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Where couples, where one or both may have been through a divorce, feel a Civil wedding to be more appropriate, then a member of the Clergy should be allowed as a friend, to lead prayers, etc., with agreement from the designated official.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should couples who wish to have a Blessing ceremony or similar from their church, should be allowed to do so.

Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would give a license for all sorts of ridiculous, and possibly totally inappropriate places to be chosen. The marriage ceremony should retain both its dignity and its solemnity, as it should be recognised as an important decision in their lives, and treated with respect.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

As long as the ceremony is held in a responsible way, retaining a solemn, dignified and important atmosphere.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An Anglican church, for example, should not be enforced to carry out a service which does not comply with the standard CofE ceremony.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whereas it is reasonable that electronic recording should be introduced, the law should insist that written records are always maintained.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The rules of marriage must take every precaution against bogus, polygamous, bigamous or forced marriages etc., and signatures, witnesses and clear and official documentation, are critical for safeguarding against such practices.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Whatever the costs, it is important that Government takes steps to stop the trivialisation of marriage in general, and stresses the importance for children to have both a mother and father who stay together, in particular, and build a loving family home and relationships. The ever growing divorce rate is indicative of the disastrous decision making from Government that has resulted in so many broken homes. The growing number of single parent homes, the number of children needing psychological help, the number of people sleeping rough, the growing mental problems within society, are all partly the result of marriage breakdown. Government must advertise and sponsor the necessity of Families to build more tolerance into their marriage, and stay together for their children's sake. Marriage should be encouraged, but it should be explained why. Marriages that stay together produce happier and better adjusted children. The vows that are included in marriage services should be treated with respect, and parents must acknowledge their responsibilities. Government must make decisions that encourage all the virtues of family life, and make it harder for divorce rather than easier, such as their ridiculous 'No Fault' divorce Bill which they voted in!?

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHR-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 14:25:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this should be a period of 3 weeks to allow time for any additional checks required and for any objections/concerns to be raised.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that interviews should be held remotely as this could increase the potential for fraud or coercive behaviour from others in the vicinity.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would be difficult to prevent the risk of harm should this be displayed online. Harm can take many forms and could invite the potential for vindictive behaviour of others.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree with this to safeguard each person and ensure legal requirements are met.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes I agree with this.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Due to the seriousness of the event, I believe it is important to maintain that the current legal requirements are met to safeguard all persons.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that an authorised person who meets specific requirements ie training, professionalism, maintaining documents safely and completing audits, should be allowed to do this

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Theme parks

Sporting venues unless in a conference room facility.

Pubs/ breweries

Cruise ships

Military bases unless in a chapel

Aircraft

Fairgrounds  
Theatres  
Shopping malls

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I do not agree with this statement as this could prevent officiants from holding views or acting out of conscience which is contrary to public opinion.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a clear definition of what constitutes "fit and proper"

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Also to have no criminal record.

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that there should be a limit on fees.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A clear definition of what constitutes "dignity and solemnity" is required.

This should not only apply to the officiant but also to the content and character of the ceremony. I would not consider it appropriate for a marriage ceremony to be along the lines of a cheap themed party or to be disrespectful to the seriousness of the commitment that marriage represents.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that this should be monitored by the General Register office

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that this should be renewed with evidence of good practice and training and development every 3 years.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. I believe that oral consent should always be obtained during the wedding ceremony as, in the event of only written consent, it may not be clear to the person what they are signing.

Oral impediments should also be requested during the service for other persons to be able to respond to.

2. Persons should not in my view be able to create their own wording to reflect consent as this could be ambiguous, not sufficiently measurable and a step too far from the public declarations which are a key part of the ceremony.

3. Oral consent to still be required.

4. The marriage should be formed at the conclusion of the ceremony and certainly not in the absence of a physical ceremony. A signed document is insufficient and I believe could leave many loopholes for inadequate and uninformed consent, coercive behaviour and sham marriages. A physical ceremony is also a celebration of that special union between two people in the context of public declaration and a legal framework.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that a marriage ceremony should be invisible and personally defined and created at almost every level by the couple themselves as this would undermine marriage from the outset and may well lack a sense of dignity.

Words and behaviour are inextricably linked and this proposal opens up opportunities for themes that are inappropriate for such an occasion. This could cheapen marriage to shallow wording, whims and a sense of worthlessness to what is a serious, legal and reverent occasion in which society and the state has an interest.

"Modern" does not necessarily = right.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that there should remain special rules and own requirements should continue to be imposed as desired.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In my experience, some wedding couples who have held a civil ceremony have expressed a desire for a spiritual element to be included in their ceremony and that this should not be restricted.

Please share your views below:

Prayer  
Blessing  
Hymns/songs  
Reading from a bible passage.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should continue to be open and celebrated with public access as marriage is in the interest of the public and not only the couple. Open doors enables better scrutiny and helps to protect against forced marriage or sham marriages. Open doors increases accountability for those involved in maintaining dignity and respect and honouring marriage as an institution.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal would undermine the dignity of marriage. Venues must be appropriate in achieving dignity, appropriate behaviour and safety and therefore not held in places such as fast food outlets, pubs and themed conferences among others.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I believe that weddings should NOT be held at any of the above venues. Again, a clear criteria is required for what constitutes "safety and dignity" in these settings.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These should be accessible to the public to ensure accountability of all persons involved and to ensure that weddings remain in the interests of the public and society.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious venues should only be used to conduct religious ceremonies .  
Religious venues are not just a building but reflect the spiritual nature and significance of the faith that they embrace.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be clear and stringent criteria for the suitability of locations and should not be down to personal opinion.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a clearly defined description of what "safe and dignified" represents by the General Register Office as this can be open to wide interpretation. There should be a set of standards to be met.  
I find it hard to comprehend how these criteria could be met for example in the air or in a fancy dress themed setting.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this should be compulsory and not optional.

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office who would sign of a list of criteria to be met which would need to be reassessed at agreed intervals.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences



Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. yes
2. no.
3. no

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

3 years would seem an ample period of time.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With a short time scale to enable fast track marriage where there is a reduced life expectancy.

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would agree to point 1 only

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMR-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 14:33:23

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

it should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. Also the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and the seriousness of the long term commitment being made needs to be emphasised.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony should be serious, solemn, and appropriate for such a significant event.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a solemn and formal occasion. The venue should be consistent with this.

Please share your views below:

A marriage is a solemn and formal occasion. The venue should be consistent with this.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a solemn and formal occasion. The venue should be consistent with this.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a solemn and formal occasion. The venue should be consistent with this.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a solemn and formal occasion. Officiants should ensure that the wedding location is consistent with this. There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is a solemn and formal occasion. Officiants should ensure that the wedding location is consistent with this. There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should ensure that "pre-approved" wedding locations satisfy the tests for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Please share your views below:

Officiants should ensure that "pre-approved" wedding locations satisfy the tests for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

The overall costs should not exceed current levels.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMX-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 14:41:33

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It has been important for marriages to take place during the Pandemic. Life needs to go on. The church service of my son and also of two friends children took place in August and September 2020. Whilst it was a pity to have to limit guests all the weddings were happy occasions.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should not be rushed or on the spur of the moment. Being resident for 7 days is not onerous.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think it is not burdensome to maintain the current provisions.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

A minimum of 7 days . Not to be rushed.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person makes it much more likely that any problems/ major issues will be picked up.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given the pandemic experience this seems a good idea to cover a situation when a wedding has to be delayed.

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes for religious organisations. They will treat marriage ceremonies with appropriate solemnity.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need - they should have a registrar conduct a civil service.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Maintain existing religions list. The proposal could lead to cults using this provision and people suffering.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes as long as this is not a tool to prevent free speech and people holding beliefs contrary to current politically correct positions.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage services should not be businesses.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes both for themselves and for the marriage service which should be solemn and dignified to reflect the importance of marriage. Good to define what is meant by "solemn" and "dignified". Such a marriage service can also be joyful. But it is not meant to be a party - the act of marriage needs to be understood as a serious commitment.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be solemn and dignified to reflect the importance of marriage. Good to define what is meant by "solemn" and "dignified". Such a marriage service can also be joyful. But it is not meant to be a party - the act of marriage needs to be understood as a serious commitment.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The amount of prescribed wording is very limited at present but should be kept. There need to be key commitments made that are reflected in the prescribed words. These are solemn promises made between 2 people that also affect society - the prescribed wording allows the service to be appropriately solemn and clear as to what the commitment is. Couples can personalise the rest of the service.

The current proposal suggests that one party need not be at the service - both parties should be present- it should be a public declaration of commitment.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and needs to be appropriately dignified and solemn. It is not just personal to the couple but also for the benefit of society and the state. So a solemn , dignified service ( which can of course be joyful) where serious commitments are made is appropriate.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage has public significance so it should be a public service. Marriage is not just a personal commitment to the 2 people but also of importance to society and the state.

Open doors was to protect people from forced marriages- this is still a problem in parts of our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A suitably dignified location ( and service) is appropriate for the importance of marriage.  
They should be in a place that is public for the benefit of society and the protection of vulnerable people.  
The current law gives ample breadth of venue.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

The last two suggested places- in the air and private homes - would assist forced marriages.

should be solemn and dignified to reflect the importance of marriage. Good to define what is meant by "solemn" and "dignified". Such a marriage service can also be joyful. But it is not meant to be a party - the act of marriage needs to be understood as a serious commitment.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

should be solemn and dignified to reflect the importance of marriage. Good to define what is meant by "solemn" and "dignified". Such a marriage service can also be joyful. But it is not meant to be a party - the act of marriage needs to be understood as a serious commitment.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These words need to be defined if this approach is pursued.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFV7-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:02:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

London Strategic Registration Board

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Registration Services across the country have shown during the pandemic, that they are flexible, responsive and creative. This has enable them to react quickly and effectively to the lack of Government guidance, or changes in guidance. What has become really clear is just how much work registrars have

to do to support couple through the marriage process, particularly when external change affect plans. This has been by telephone, Email and via social media.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, as this requirement is outdated and causes confusion and unnecessary hindrance for service users and register offices alike.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Register Offices of London agree with this proposal as it will be convenient to service users and already works in other jurisdictions such as Scotland. It is particularly important to require a second part face to face interview as by meeting a couple in person is how registrars are able to identify sham, fraud, safeguarding concerns and other potential offences. However there are points that require careful consideration prior to any implementation.

First, clarity is required as to where the couple need to be to start the first (remote) part of the notice giving procedure. We would recommend that this can be done from anywhere in the world, but if not legally possible then certainly from any part of the UK, its Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories to ensure a consistent and fair process.

Second, if a couple can give notice from anywhere to any register office, there is a risk that some more well-known register offices may become overwhelmed with notices whilst others have few to process. There is a recommendation therefore that notices are first fed into a national database and they can then be allocated to certain register offices, at the couple's request or choice, where couples giving notice can view waiting times for processing and make an informed choice.

Third, clarity is essential to understand which part of the notice giving process will be undertaken in part 1 (remotely) and which in part 2 (face to face). It is recommended that document upload is required for part 1 (remote) and that the original documents must be brought to part 2 (face to face).

By separating the notice giving procedure into two stages, this will require extra time for processing by register offices and so the statutory fee of £35 per notice statutory fee will need to be reviewed

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Register Offices in London in theory support the three-day option, as this would significantly benefit couples especially those coming in from abroad to marry / enter civil partnership. However, there are operational concerns which must be flagged.

If the second part of the notice giving procedure (the person interview) is the part that requires the production of original required documentation, then three days may not be enough time to resolve issues such as: not bringing the correct or original documentation; not bringing in translations of official document; "clearance" of some documents such as foreign divorces; not enough time for the Marriage Referral Unit to decide whether they wish to investigate the marriage / civil partnership before it proceeds.

Proposing a "two tier" system where "simple" cases can proceed after 3 days but more "complex" cases require a longer waiting period could be seen as not fair and equitable to all, therefore a possible solution would be to mandate that the notice period (part 1) does not start until the registrar is confident to the best of their knowledge that all the correct required documentation is submitted electronically. Clearance procedures can then start prior to part 2.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree, with the register office having the right to request in-person interviews where they feel appropriate (e.g. sham / fraud / safeguarding concerns).

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree, as this will be convenient to service users. There is a currently inconsistency in arrangements for people giving notice where one or both parties are resident in Scotland, Northern Ireland, or UK crown dependencies, which leads to confusion. We therefore propose that couples may start the notice giving procedure regardless of whether one or both parties are England / Wales or not; and that it should be possible to give notice from anywhere in the world, and if not legally possible then certainly from any part of the UK, UK Crown Dependencies, UK Overseas Territories and the Common Travel Area.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, however for confidentiality reasons it should only display names and no other data about the couple. It may be required for the notice to also display the intended location of marriage / civil partnership, if ceremonies remain "open doors" to allow for objections (see consultation question 47).

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, as it is more in line with customer expectation (as opposed to 12 months from the date of notice). The validity period should be allowed to be extended, in case of a national emergency such as a pandemic, without requiring additional ad-hoc legislation or regulatory amendments (see consultation question 67).

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Part (1) London Register Offices disagree with this proposal if it requires the official to be named at the notice, as couples will wish to give notice of marriage / civil partnership before knowing who will conduct the ceremony, and requiring them to name an officiant in advance may lead to various changes and therefore otherwise avoidable associated administrative work. Furthermore, it is impractical to name a particular person; rather, it should be possible to name an organisation e.g. "Superintendent Registrar of X Register Office" or "A licensed officiant from the Association of X (Non-)Belief Organisation" to allow for flexibility. London Register Offices' proposal would be that the named officiant is added onto the registration schedule at the ceremony, with the officiant being required to give their officiant registration number. It would also be helpful for the schedule to state a proposed location of marriage / civil partnership which may also be amended at the ceremony, so that officiants have an idea of where the couple intend for their ceremony to proceed for reasons of operational planning, but that there is flexibility for the actual location of the ceremony to change before the day e.g. in the event of inclement weather.

Part (2): Agree if the proposal described in part (1) isn't implemented, however any changes to the named officiant or organisation, or indeed proposed location if implemented, must be chargeable by register offices.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree, if a named officiant has to appear on the schedule in advance (see response to question 11).

Please share your views below:

We propose that a substitute officiant may be able to act in any operational "emergency" and shouldn't be restricted to a prescribed list of emergencies.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We propose instead universal civil preliminaries across the UK.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We propose instead universal civil preliminaries across the UK.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Disagree, banns should be published online and if not possible then at their local Anglican church(es) plus the church where the ceremony is to take place. Preference however for banns to be replaced with universal civil preliminaries.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



We agree with both parts of this question, but our preference is for banns to be replaced with universal civil preliminaries.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree, but we express a preference for banns to be replaced with universal civil preliminaries.

#### Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

We believe that Anglican preliminaries to marriage (banns) should no longer be recognised as legal preliminaries, and that all weddings should be preceded by universal civil preliminaries for reasons of clarity and equity for everyone. Reasoning is exactly as stated in paragraphs 4.163 – 4.172 of the consultation document with which we agree.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but we would also suggest that there are other legal duties that should be included:

- Legal duty to report a sham marriage
- Legal duty to ensure that the couple not only express consent to marry but that they are willing to marry
- Safeguarding considerations to prevent sham, forced or predatory marriage

Accountability and responsibilities expected of officiants needs to be defined. All types of officiant regulated in the same way. In order to eliminate inconsistencies for couples and between officiant types.

- Ceremony needs to be dignified – how is this set out ie what if asked to sacrifice as part of ceremonial ritual, would this be acceptable to one officiant but not another

#### Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, in as much as would not want registrars to be responsible for officiating at a religious ceremony, even in emergencies. But wouldn't want registrars to be precluded from being independent officiants.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, unless operational reasons why may require two ie remote location or late timing of ceremony, but that will be the decision of the local authority. Some consideration needs to be made if one officiant; couples generally want additional services which are offered at register offices such as; announcements; doors held for entrance of bride/groom; music played etc This could not happen if one officiant, family and friends would need to organize separately..

#### Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe Universal civil marriage would eliminate the processes and difficulties raised in the consultation.

- Everyone would follow the same procedure at the same regulated cost. This would eliminate uncertainty of couples with different policies according to organization.
- Have religious venues been asked if they would like Register officers to come to their religious building to complete the required paperwork leaving them to conduct the religious ceremony knowing paperwork correctly completed.

#### Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe Universal civil marriage would eliminate the processes and difficulties raised in the consultation.

- Everyone would follow the same procedure at the same regulated cost. This would eliminate uncertainty of couples with different policies according to organization.
- Have religious venues been asked if they would like Register officers to come to their religious building to complete the required paperwork leaving them to conduct the religious ceremony knowing paperwork correctly completed.

Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe Universal civil marriage would eliminate the processes and difficulties raised in the consultation.

- Everyone would follow the same procedure at the same regulated cost. This would eliminate uncertainty of couples with different policies according to organization.
- Have religious venues been asked if they would like Register officers to come to their religious building to complete the required paperwork leaving them to conduct the religious ceremony knowing paperwork correctly completed.

If Humanists a belief system, then officiants need to be signed up to a list from that organization and practicing more than one or two ceremonies in their lifetime. In essence a period of observation/training before they can officiate on their own. Other wise open to anyone applying to be an officiant to do friends/ family ceremonies and the officiant list too long and unwieldy. Therefore should officiants have to carry out a number of ceremonies per year ?

Please share your views below:

The definition of non-religious belief organisations is very narrow, is effectively a description of humanists and takes no account of other groups such as atheists, agnostics or Druids.

What about beliefs about marriage and the roles of each party to a marriage, to promote strong family connections and therefore strong and stable communities in which to bring up families?

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We believe Universal civil marriage would eliminate the processes and difficulties raised in the consultation.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes must have morality and decency

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, but also for civil marriage – Deputy Superintendent Registrars / Superintendent Registrar at such and such Register Office

Non-religious belief organisations must be accountable – if a shared belief these must be identifiable as part of the ceremony to distinguish between that of a civil marriage and non belief marriage. If they are not then officiants in this category can be anyone

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As well as a national register administered by the General Register Office, there should also be a nationally recognised form of training and accreditation together with CPD and performance monitoring / professional standards.

Should be a charge to join the list to ensure legitimate applications as officiants

Should be a code of practice ensuring appropriate behaviour and ultimately a disciplinary scheme for officiants not adhering to the standards.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – and see above answer with regards to standards of professional training and conduct.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – but how “fit and proper” to be defined and decided, what will be the criteria? Suggest GRO should determine and provide a description of fit and proper. Would suggest that rather than fit and proper, ‘solemn and dignified’ might be a better definition for this purpose.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Training on legal requirements could be delivered by register offices, as well as training on conducting if required, for a cost recoverable fee.

CPD – should include compulsory experience ie, must have done certain number of ceremonies within a period of time, to ensure and maintain knowledge and practice. Otherwise should be removed from list of officiants. This should be easy to determine if officiants names are on Schedules – a report could be run from the Registration System.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this should be about marriage and not profit - but how will this be managed and overseen?

Perhaps this concern could be eradicated by universal civil preliminaries and universal civil marriage.

Would fees be presented to GRO as a way of ensuring fees are not for profit. Would there be a need to be a cap of fees if too high. In essence this is to make marriages cheaper for couples, yet independent officiants seem to be able to charge any fee so how will this be monitored.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – but being a registrar should not be classed as a conflict of interest.

Registrars should be able to officiate on the same footing as an independent officiant.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed but would question how this is to be enforced, especially for independent officiants who have no affiliated body.

the officiant as they are on their own is not being forced by the ceremony party to carry out aspects of the ceremony that do not conform with an agreed structure or content But also that Issues of security of paperwork and amendments made and who responsible for the return of the schedule. .

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed, but how to monitor enforcement? Registration fee to become officiant should be levied, which would include the cost of follow up survey with couples, spot checks etc?

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not them alone – GRO too, similar to the role of GMC.

Concerns around this – some organisations already not overly concerned with compliance with law above their own religious observances (eg [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] not completing legal words in ceremony with both parties present).

How will registrars be able to flag repeat issues with Schedules not completed properly etc?

Too much Trust. Universal civil marriage would eliminate these issues.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but how will they know? Will they expect local registration service to monitor, inspect, check? If so there is a cost implication, as well as change of role. May put LRS in difficult position if accused of conflict of interest. How reports and complaints to be made?

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but how will they know? Will they expect local registration service to monitor, inspect, check? If so, cost implication, as well as change of role. May put LRS in difficult position if accused of conflict of interest.

Need to ensure there is a complaints system, to allow feedback and removal from the list if required.

Issue with the use of Independent Officiants is how do you ensure couples get a good experience. The market would say they won't be used again (and as above should therefore be removed from the list of officiants as not carrying out certain number of ceremonies in a prescribed time period), but could have ruined a couple's ceremony, and the couple would have had little recourse to resolution.

How would this be possible if the number of officiants is excessive. Inspectors cannot police all the individuals therefore best fit would be Local authority register officers to check compliance

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Can see the practical benefits to avoid expiry and still doing ceremonies (but issuing a schedule to an officiant would eliminate this as would check before issue), but concern lists will become outdated very quickly – many added but few removed. How ensure up to date with requirements / training etc? Renewal of authorisation would provide opportunity to review performance against responsibilities, ensure regular discourse on obligations

Must be a renewal system with GRO or the organization required to update their lists at intervals. If you leave an organization ie your belief system changes, you should be taken off the list. Needs to be security built in to requirements for access to systems.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1.

A) Yes. Consent must be expressed in some form whether verbal or non-verbal.

Clarity must be provided and specified at what point during the ceremony the couple become married.

B) Any impediments should be addressed in the preliminaries/notice waiting period. Unlikely for couple to announce they know of an impediment just

before their ceremony.

2) Yes.

To ensure regulations are not open to abuse e.g. forced marriages. All ceremonies are conducted in the same way under particular faith/non-religious belief for consistency and fairness (with added elements from couple)

Need to clarify - are the witnesses witnessing couple exchanging words or signing schedule? (similarly, to Civil Partnerships)

(3) Yes. As schedule is the legal record so signing confirms consent even if it expressed verbally.

(4) Much the same as civil partnerships – no prescribed words. Couples for CPs have a choice whether they would like to repeat wording or just sign the schedule.

Does this mean marriages will be offered the same choice as CPs?

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes more meaningful for couple to include personal elements/cultural significance.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but religious groups may have other ideas.

This will probably be determined and continued by faith requirements

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Good to incorporating elements of cultural significance.

GRO should provide guidance and examples. Clarity on how many religious elements is ok to include as there is already an arena already where you can have a religious marriage. At what point does a civil / non belief ceremony become a religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Two legal ceremonies on the same day e.g. Jewish and Muslim – which one is the legal ceremony. At what point to they become married?

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Private moment for couple and family. Very few, if any objections on day of ceremony.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree that more choice is a very good thing and we agree that locations should not have to be publicly accessible or regularly available to the public, but that the rationale of more choice will reduce costs is debatable depending on the location.

£1000 for a hotel approval for a place of marriage plus the cost of staffing an event and individual cost of Risk and Health and Safety assessments could well increase the cost depending on how often the event is used.

If it were an outdoor space, what happens if the weather is inclement? Who would be responsible for booking an alternative venue and who makes the decision that the weather stopped the venue being viable?

The Schedule would need to be changed by the officiant in the case of an emergency change of venue.

Permission would still need to be sought from the landowners, ie parks and council areas and properties. Royal parks charge a fee or issue chargeable licenses/permission for photographs taken within their gardens. Will this be the role of the officiant to ensure that this permission is gained/granted?

There could be multiple couples on the same site, who would police this and how would this be resolved if there were an issue.

Church of England will not allow non-religious weddings to be undertaken on land they own.

Please share your views below:

At Home, there is the issue of Health and safety Risk Assessments and the psychological way that people behave in their own homes. How would you control numbers in a private property?

2 Registrars could attend but officiants will only send 1 person. At present for RG's license and Housebound there are normally only a few people present.

Need to consider staff allergies, ie animals and the cleanliness of private properties.

Outdoors

How would you record the location? In Scotland they record the co-ordinates of the ceremony. How do the couple advise people where to attend? Consider practical issues, accessibility GPS co-ordinates, facilities.

Air and Inland waters and Rivers. Who issues the schedules. What happens if you drift into another Country, county or district.

Would you attach a flight log to the schedule or send the exact location by whatsapp etc.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should the law prohibit where a marriage takes place ie Church, Synagogue, Register office or an Approved Venue etc.

There should be choice for couples to add a religious blessing or a traditional act to a Civil ceremony or a mix of all.

Organizations should be free to decide if they wish to be open to giving choice and flexibility to the ceremonies they perform.

Venues should reserve the right to levy a charge for the cost of the hire of their venues.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The responsibility should be with the Local Authority and charge the owner or landowner for it.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes agree. Parents information should be taken at the time of the notice. The date and location should be added before it is signed by the couple and their witnesses to ensure all in agreement as to the date and location of the wedding.  
If allowing ceremonies in hot air balloon for example, where / how will location of wedding be recorded if travelling? And how will the couple know which registration district to return schedule to?

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Should be able to be registered in any official language of England and Wales.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1)Yes

2) No – if requirement that the ceremony must be witnessed then absence should render it void. This could leave one or both parties open to abuse of modern slavery/ forced / predatory marriage, as forced into signing schedule without even witnesses.  
3) Yes, but would need a legal declaration at some point to establish marriage took place (like a statutory declaration).

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – but need to be clear what is the expression of consent ie words or signing of schedule

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consideration should be given to a “provisional marriage” with a process after for validating in cases of terminally ill persons.

In relation to RGL's another location should be an option as the person who is terminally ill could be moved from home to hospital to hospice which would require a further application and causes undue stress on the parties involved.

The validity of the licence should also be extended.

There is a crossover with Housebound/ seriously ill in some instances and the waiting period can be an issue where illness is a factor

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The terminally ill person may have little time to live, by requiring a notice in person this adds unnecessary time and stress to the process; the pre-ceremony questioning covers the legal requirements to proceed.

The prescribed information in the Doctor's letter could be expanded to ensure all of the requirements are met for an RGL licence which would then speed the notice and approval process even further lessening the distress caused to couples.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only those directly affected



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, must be very clear on the extent of the territorial waters. Many employees of cruise ships do not have good working conditions and this could lead to further exploitation.

Health and Safety is another concern

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Many employees of cruise ships do not have good working conditions and this could lead to further exploitation. Health and Safety is another concern

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Yes, there may be a demand for private yachts, submarines, pontoons, drilling platforms, these need to be registered in England and Wales.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the name and number of the ship and its registration with the appropriate authorities/insurers should also be included

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No – it should be opened to include Civil Registration Officers.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No a 3 months limit should be imposed – digital signatures would resolve the fixed time issue.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, should charge a fee, but needs to take into account operating costs higher in London (salaries, travel, building costs), so should be cost recovery fees set locally. Otherwise just replicating same problems as now with other statutory fees, which don't cover the costs of providing the service. These fees could be waived on hardship / compassionate grounds.

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

As above but (all or part) waivable by LRS on compassionate grounds

Consultation Question 77:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes the option should still continue but fee needs to be locally set at a cost recovery basis, to take into account operating costs higher in London. Otherwise it perpetuates current problems with a fee prescribed by regulation – regular uplifts don't happen in line with rising costs.

Some authorities suggest that statutory ceremonies should be abolished – they were introduced as an alternative to a church marriage for those who could not marry in church at that time. No longer needed as there is a great choice of locations, venues and prices. Concerns that registrars will be the only officiant compelled to perform statutory ceremonies, and if they are at below the costs, this is an unfair burden on local authorities in comparison to other officiants.

Could have the statutory ceremony being means tested fee, so only available to those who can't afford other options, but appreciate this may be stigmatizing. London suggested they should be only available to local residents, especially if at below cost recovery fee.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

By local authority

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not a standardized hourly rate, as the cost of provision will vary from register office to register office; and from region to region. For example London register offices has higher operating costs inc. salary costs and therefore a standardized hourly rate across the country would be below cost recovery for London. Therefore should have a locally set fee.

Question as to why Independent officiants will be able to set their own rates, so why can't local authorities?

Concerns if Law Commission proposing that the overall fee for civil marriage would be RO fee + travel time only, unless discretionary extras? This will have an unfair impact as costs of staff and running costs higher. How will registration services cover other costs involved in delivering the service – staff time on booking, contact with couples, checking paperwork, rota'ing staff etc.

Also if charging fee in advance what happens when travel difficulties, and travel takes longer than anticipated? What happens if couple dispute route taken, and therefore travel time.

Structure applied to registrars not to other officiants

Concerns raised that if local authorities can't recover full costs of ceremony (inc. back office costs), as well as pay decent salaries, may reduce / lose staff, especially if staff can make more money as independent or non belief officiants. The may skew the market and drive up costs overall, as independent officiants will be able to charge what they like as may end up dominating the market.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, locally set but how are additional services determined. Anything about statutory minimum ie Register Office ceremony, so readings, walk in, contact time beforehand, prep work / paperwork.

Its not clear what the Law Commission are suggesting:

1. Talking about booking, administrating,. Pre ceremony discussion, RON, issue schedule etc or duo ceremony
2. Or talking about extras to ceremony

Will cause more problems for couples, as how will they know what they want, menu of costs eg exchange rings £19; readings £20 each or like what we have ceremony for 1 hour.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Locally set fee

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Locally set fee, but waivable at registrar's discretion

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and to cover future costs of training, complaints procedure, monitoring etc

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

One - The current law is not complicated and allows for low cost ceremonies to take place. The law has enabled couples' access to a great deal of choice and costs including the ability to have a ceremony at a lot of different locations. The inability to have a ceremony outdoors is a limiter for some couples.

Some low-income couples are being put off or excluded by limited statutory provision. If conducting Register Office ceremonies was made more cost effective for the local registration service access could be improved. Currently a large number of the people having statutory ceremonies fall into the higher income bracket. If means testing were introduced access could be more easily protected for people that need a statutory ceremony through need rather than choice.

The law around residency is restrictive for some couples, particularly people coming from overseas.

The requirement to declare biological sex as part of the notice taking process has led to those who are cisgender having a more favourable and easier route to marriage. Those who fall outside this scope often disregard legal ceremonies as a pathway open to them. The current law is prohibitive as it fails to take into consideration or recognize intersex persons as part of the notice taking process and there currently is no avenue for them to declare themselves as such. In addition to this, as gender is not taken into account, those who identify as non-binary or without gender are without recourse to have this information recorded.

Two – The proposals would allow for more ceremonies to be recognised by law, particularly Islamic ceremonies. In many areas the current law means that many mosques choose to not be licensed to conduct ceremonies.

Making more ceremonies legal would create additional protection for any vulnerable party including some woman who are currently wrongly misled into believing they are married in law when they are only married under their religion. The changes would make it an offence to purport to be a legal ceremony, this would be a positive development.

Whilst the proposed change would widen the scope of what type of ceremony would be determined as a legal marriage; the expectation that this will lead to an increase in choice will not necessarily result in an increase in the number of ceremonies taking place. The outcome may not be as intended, and the changes could result in fewer statutory ceremonies taking place.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

One – The current national statutory fee is set too low (particularly in London where costs are higher) The consequence of this is that appointment availability is low as the fee that can be charged does not cover the cost of delivering the service. This issue would be resolved if the local registration service is permitted to set its own fee for a reduced-price ceremony.

Two – The ability to set fees locally greatly helps to ensure a good supply of ceremony slots and allows for the registration service to offer commercially viable and cost effective options in order to cater to all members of the local community – resulting in more choice. Currently, the fee charged to the local registration service to officiate a ceremony reflects a very small percentage of the total cost charged to a couple when they have a ceremony at an approved premise.

Three – Religious institutions are permitted to charge a ceremony fee appropriate to that as set by the diocese and other religious executive Boards, however, the local registration service is currently prohibited from setting fees that recover the cost of attending registered buildings.

The cost of attending a church or other religious building does not cover the cost of providing the service, fees do not reflect the increased costs of London. This impacts our resourcing model.

which in turn limits the ability of the local registration service to supply staff. There is a big cost in sending staff to attend religious ceremonies as other services that attract a higher fee need to be scaled back in order to be able to attend.

The law could be improved if religious buildings were required to have their own Authorised Person or if the fee were set at a local or regional level.

Four – The local registration service believes that the cost of hiring an unlicensed venue is cheaper than it would be were the location to be licensed, as the structure would not be consistent or formalised. Licensing a venue adds value and in turn a premium price.

Couples currently have to pay two fees, one for the legal ceremony and another for the unlicensed venue, a change to the law would allow the whole process to be done in one go with the potential for a cost saving. An unintended consequence of the change could be that the increased hire charge for new outside legal venues cancels out the cost of what are normally statutory ceremonies.

Five - Evidence suggests that most couples choosing to have a second non legal outside ceremony choose to have a ceremony for the statutory £57 fee first. The fee is not substantial, and the saving of this fee is likely to be offset by landowners raising their hire costs once the land can be used for legally binding ceremonies.

The result of couples taking statutory fee ceremony slots before larger non-legal ceremonies reduces statutory availability and comes at the detriment of those that need them because they are on a low income.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

One – These two points are not mutually exclusive. The proposal does not deliver a benefit as the low fee that can be charged for a statutory ceremony is and would continue to result in a low supply of statutory ceremonies being offered. Typical register office availability is no more than one statutory ceremony per week and normally much less, the result is long waiting times for couples and reduced access for those on the lowest incomes. Low income couples are often competing with wealthier couples for the few slots available. If fees could be set locally appointment supply could be improved whilst still enabling an affordable service to be offered to those that need it most. Means testing could be applied to ring fence access to those in the most need, this would be in keeping with the commissions aim to reduce the cost of getting married or forming a civil partnership.

Two – Currently the cost of approving an approved premise is spread across the cost of a three year plus license period meaning the incremental cost per couple is minimal.

In the event that pre-approval costs could not be charged to the couple, but the local registration service is still required to attend the changes would place an additional cost on the local registration service or person conducting the ceremony. Costs would need to be passed onto couples by way of the fees charged.

There is the potential for significant costs including for health and safety, risk assessments and additional hire costs for the couple such as access to an alternative inside location in the event of inclement weather.

For couples in pursuit of a dream wedding these proposals will deliver more choice but would not deliver a saving. there is no proposal to impose a price cap or pricing controls on what celebrants can charge. The changes are likely to result in higher charges to couples and higher costs for the local registrations service and local authority planning and licensing teams having to monitor a wider range of ceremony locations.

Three – There will be some savings but not necessarily over two ceremonies. There will be small savings but only if the second location does not increase its costs.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

One – The current fee for licensing a new approved premise can be prohibitive to new venues, particularly smaller venues. Some venues may not wish to pay the upfront fee in case they do not get any ceremony bookings. The fee can be seen as regressive and not a significant obstacle to larger venues. There is evidence of best practice within the local registration service including register offices deferring fees until venues get a confirmed booking or establishing different tiers of fees based on venue size or annual turnover. There are significant differences in fees between areas, each local authority needs to understand its local market.

Two – The registration service typically works on the basis of it being accepted that if a couple book a ceremony a registrar will be found to allow it to take place. The ability to charge a fee that reflects the cost of attending an approved premise enables this to happen.

The local registration services support the proposal to move from two to one registrar having to attend a ceremony owing to the cost saving and the ability for more ceremonies to be covered at a given time.

If fees are determined by law and not set locally the availability of registrars would be reduced which could be offset by the use of independent celebrants.

Changes to the law are likely to result in the local registration service conducting lower cost and more weekday ceremonies versus independent celebrants who are likely to want to officiate the more profitable elements of the ceremonies market – such as large weekend ceremonies. This could have negative implications for the long-term supply of registrars particularly if registrars switch from being employed by the local authority to independent contractors. Local register offices may face issues sourcing staff. Allowing local authority registrars to also work independently would offset this risk. Offsetting the risk is important as ultimately registrars will be the point of last resort should an independent celebrant not be able to attend a ceremony.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

13.61

One – The current fee for licensing a new approved premise can be prohibitive to new venues, particularly smaller venues. Some venues may not wish to pay the upfront fee in case they do not get any ceremony bookings. The fee can be seen as regressive and not a significant obstacle to larger venues. There is evidence of best practice within the local registration service including register offices deferring fees until venues get a confirmed booking or establishing different tiers of fees based on venue size or annual turnover. There are significant differences in fees between areas, each local authority needs to understand its local market.

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13.62

One – The cost to a venue would be less but this would come at the cost of health and safety and risks false selling, there are risks to the consumer and those attending ceremonies with this approach.

Venues would lose the current practical advice that the local registration service provides as part of the approved premise licensing fee. Market advice and the relationship between venues and the local authority will be lost if a system of pre approval is not in place. Less regulation could lead to a rise in false selling, misrepresentation and sham venues resulting in high legal fees from lawsuits by those impacted by a less rigorous system.

Two – The supply of registrars may be less if registrars switch from working for a local authority to become independent celebrants. Demand will be difficult to predict which will impact our resourcing model.

Three – The law would enable this to happen but there is a question mark over whether this option would be in high demand.

Four – People getting married overseas will still do that, the changes are likely to see more spread of ceremonies but not necessarily an increase in the total number of marriages and civil partnerships taking place. The proposals do provide the scope for more business opportunities including allowing local authorities to open up their property portfolios, this could see more ceremonies taking place away from register office buildings.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The changes have the potential to turn register offices into quasi approved premise venues as this may be the only way to ensure their viability in the future. Local authorities may be able to generate income from the changes, but this may not be for the benefit of the local registration service but a benefit for the local authority property portfolio.

If fees are set nationally, they may not cover the service costs, particularly in high cost areas like London resulting in the local authority and taxpayers having to cover the cost. The potential for unintended consequences is quite great particularly if demand is diverted away from the LRS making the business unsustainable as there are no cross subsidies. There are benefits of cutting costs if fees are set locally and not nationally.

There is a mixed picture, less ceremonies will result in less income which puts the delivery and availability of other services at risk. This is at a time when the General Register office has an agenda that presents risks to local authorities.

The opening up of ceremonies to independent celebrants would result in a loss of checks and balances provided by a local authority. Many couples will still want traditional venues. Register offices depend on casual and sessional staff to do ceremonies; this will become harder to achieve if these staff switch to being independent celebrants who cannot also work for a register office. It will also be hampered if a local authority cannot afford to pay the rates that an independent celebrant can be paid working in an environment with no fees capping.

The local authority is the safety net, for example if an authorised person from a church cannot attend a ceremony at the last moment, the changes risk the local registration service not being able to assist on demand if these proposals are put into place. There is a danger that the local registration service will not be able to pick up problems at a none cost recovery level.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

One – The current law is complicated and confusing

Two – The current law is prohibitive and takes away choice and ease from overseas residents who are interested to marry legally in England and Wales.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

One – The proposed changes will ease the pressures faced by couples wishing to marry in other jurisdictions.

Two – The proposals should make this easier but reciprocal arrangements with other UK jurisdictions will be required. The new residency requirements would make it easier for people coming from overseas to give notice. Opportunities for wedding tourism may be opened up.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

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#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

One – The proposals are likely to have a significant cost to local authorities when changes to processes, contracts and competition are taken into account. There is a risk of reduced revenue streams if local authorities cannot set their own fees and with added competition from a more spread out market with independent celebrants.

There is a huge cost of unintended consequences including:

Being seen as a provider of last resort officiants and not having the ability to fulfil this role

Losing the ability to cross-subsidise less profitable services

Lack of commercial viability

Local authorities trying to escape costs and move to providing the legal minimum in a post-pandemic world

Services need to be able to operate at a cost neutral level with some services subsidising others. Local authorities risk being left with limited provision if this is not allowed

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFWW-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:08:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This responsibility doesn't go far enough. It should also apply to the content and tone of the legal ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both parties should be present at the wedding ceremony. Signing the schedule without being present at the ceremony is unacceptable. The prescribed phrases should be used to express the parties' consent to marry and to publicly state that there is no impediment for them to do so. Personalisation of a marriage ceremony at the expense of agreed legal content undermines the seriousness of the lifelong commitment being entered into.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A ceremony should be appropriate for the seriousness of the event. A wedding is not just about two people but a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors requirement helps convey the public nature of such declarations. It is also a protection against forced marriage. The marriage of two people is not a private matter.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should be allowed if they are appropriate places to hold this significant ceremony. This is a lifelong public commitment and the public should be allowed to witness public declarations by the participants.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFM4-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:09:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Householder

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am concerned about the way that the solemnity of the present marriage ceremony is being undermined but I do not want to be targeted by emails from factions who wish to change the law

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in a Church of England ceremony

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Did not attend any weddings during Covid pandemic

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Time for serious thought should be given to the importance and weightiness of their decision

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It makes it look too much like a business transaction

### Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

See previous answer, it brings it down to a business deal

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, it takes it down to a business transaction level

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The banns are an important part of the marriage contract and another place found

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This should remain as it is as there may be reasons why the marriage should not take place and so need to be publicised elsewhere

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This needs to be so to establish the legality of the union

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This needs to be so to establish the importance of their union

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Why should there be any need to change these preliminaries as the Anglican preliminaries have been perfectly acceptable for centuries.  
Why change what works well

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This safeguards the couple's future interests

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to exclude registration officers from civil or religious weddings

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These people have been coached in conducting the marriage service and have experience in understanding the importance and solemnity of the service

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These people should come under a government watchdog

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1b should continue to be included for later safeguarding

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be only certain places kept for the wedding ceremony to safeguard the solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The form and legal requirements Anglican services should remain to safeguard the solemnity and weightiness of the ceremony

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If religious content is wanted by both parties regardless of the type of service then this should be allowed under freedom of speech

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the parties involved wish to have a religious service later why should they not be permitted to do so?Under freedom of choice?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity of marriage should remain and not be trivialised by holding the ceremony wherever the parties wish outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Marriage should be a solemn undertaking. If conducted wherever and whenever without thought then its importance is undermined

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should only be certain venues available due to the solemnity of the undertaking

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A reputable governing body

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There may be reasons for non cohabitation discovered only after the ceremony

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The state of Marriage should not be presumed so if a couple have lived together, no matter for how long. Marriage is not co-habitation and should not be trivialised

### Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 3 year period of nullity petition should be observed otherwise it risks trivialising the nature of marriage and the reason for trying to find a way to remain married through counselling

### Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but discretion should be used as to the time schedule

### Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should remain the same as the Registrar General has the backing and experience of many year's standing to provide correct records

### Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In view of the extenuating circumstances

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In view of the circumstances

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Only that marriage should be treated as a serious undertaking and would not be subject to costs and prices

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMK-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:11:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:



Please share your views below:

Both couples should attend to make separate Declarations about no impediment to marriage,

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants should be prohibiting from acting with a conflict of interest and there should be an upper limit on fees that they can charge

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should ensure that the form, content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds and is in complete accord with this dignity and solemnity

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a time limit but renewal could be allowed.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony should follow the prescribed and solemn commitment to each other, that there are no impediments to the marriage and that the couple understands that this is a solemn and serious lifetime undertaking. It is not sufficient to just sign a marriage schedule

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage being a serious ceremony should take place at an appropriate venue for such a significant event.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding ceremony must be of public significance

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All wedding ceremonies should be in appropriate places, not just anywhere which would nullify or reduce the solemnity and significance of the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

The above in my mind are all inappropriate places.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the location upholds the solemn and significance of the serious ceremony

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it must be in a location which reflects the solemn and significance of the wedding ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the guidance is really in accord with the solemnity of the ceremony

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The location should be licenced as they are now.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVA-U

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:16:31

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days sounds like a sensible minimum period of notice to me and should therefore be retained.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days allows a 'cooling off' period for the couple in case their decision to marry was either impulsive or the result of coercive pressure.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Marriage is a legal contract and since it is a serious state for a couple to enter into I feel it is important that they are seen in person beforehand so they understand fully its implications.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In my opinion the dignity and solemnity of marriage can best be upheld by an officiant through retention of the currently accepting wording of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not retain both a verbal expression of freedom to marry (ie no legal impediment or coercion) and a signing of the register? This seems to me to be the very minimum of what's required to satisfy the law and to affirm the place of marriage within society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious business, not a charade or a game. If the couple want to live out their fantasies afterwards then that's fine but the core of the ceremony itself has to have gravitas and legal weight.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The open doors aspect of the ceremony is important in that it's a protection against coercive marriage and bigamous marriage, and it affirms the place of marriage within society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should this relaxation be necessary? What's wrong with having an officially recognised venue? As I have said in previous answers, marriage is a serious business. In what other kind legal contract are the two parties given discretion to decide on what and where and how it is to be sealed?

Please share your views below:

These suggestions are entertaining but unrealistic. In the air? Really?

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Define 'safe' and 'dignified'.

I would suggest maintaining the established process of notification of intention to marry, the current array of licenced individuals to carry out the ceremony, the minimal but legally recognisable words of the marriage ceremony uttered by both parties in person, at an already approved indoors venue with 'open doors', and concluded by the couple and their witnesses signing the marriage register.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

As far as I know there is no discouragement to couples from getting married under the current law.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cost is always an issue for every couple. Will the proposed changes result in cheaper weddings?

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVQ-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:26:27

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

n/a

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

n/a

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some Religious Organisations often rely on Civil Registrars to register weddings, as they do not have a registered person. This proposal poses a danger of some religious organisations falling foul of wedding laws.

### Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

"Contrary to public policy or morality" is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominations officiants. The test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

### Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words form a foundation for the declarations that are required for a marriage. The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously. Allowing completely personalised wedding ceremonies without any legal-required words would give the impression that that marriage is an entirely personal one with no recognition of its communal impact.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Non-legally binding ceremonies can already be personalised. Personailisation will damage the dignity of marriage

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Open Doors' is a valuable part of the wedding day celebration highlighting that marriage is not a private affair but important to society as a whole. It is also a way of protecting from forced marriage and bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would open the door to inappropriate venues being used and with no guarantee to the dignity of the ceremony due to the lack of precision on what is meant by a dignified venue. The Law Commission has made it clear that it sees no objection to weddings 'in the air', suggesting that the term 'dignified' and 'safe' could be open to very broad interpretation. It would allow ceremonies to take place in inappropriate places and therefore trivialise marriage.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVN-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:28:05

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Oxfordshire Registration Service

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No Comment

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No Comment

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

From a Registration Service point of view the biggest problem was the fact we could not extend the validity period of the Authorities for couples to marry. This meant couples having to come in again to give Notice and in some cases applying for waivers to reduce the 28 day waiting period. The Registration Service had to pick up the cost of this appointment and waive the statutory fee. Also with couples living in different districts to where they were marrying in we were reliant on other Services being open and being able to accommodate couples for a fresh Notice. Complete waste of time and resource.

In addition the absence of an electronic facility for Notices to be given remotely also caused issues and exposed staff to more risk in face to face appointments.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

#### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Serves no purpose and makes it difficult for some couples to provide Proof of Address.

#### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree that there should be an online system. However, do we wish to include by post as our experience shows that the postal service is not always reliable and if a person chooses to give Notice by post this will need to be input into an electronic system and will take time. Would be better for them to do it either online or in person?

Not sure how this system would fit into current Sham marriage reporting. The couple would both need to attend this meeting.

#### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

7-14 days would work better to allow time for admin processes and Sham marriage reporting and Home Office interview if required. How will Home office interview fit in with this proposal?

#### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews to be recommended with option of an in person interview for some couples including those where there is some doubt about their reasons for marrying.

#### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

#### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. Online would be an improvement but does it have to be restricted to a Register Office to allow access for the public to view? Could it have a wider audience?

How would public contact the Registration Service to ask for access to Notices?

#### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but can this be extended if a pandemic arises please.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1.Yes agree. How will couple know which officiant to select and how will this work? Will registration officers also be able to work as independent celebrants?

2.Yes. Will there be provision for schedules to be amended manually in case of sickness at short notice?

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes agreed.

Please share your views below:

Happy for them to act in other circumstances but not sure what these might be that are not already covered.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Universal Civil preliminaries to be implemented. In our experience members of the clergy are not experienced in dealing with documentation and sham marriages.

Chapter 5: Officiants



Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Will this schedule or document still require a wet signature using registration ink?  
Appropriate training to be in place.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes and this would reduce cost for couple and Local Authority. This would increase the capacity for more ceremonies to be offered at peak times as more staff will be available.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing further to add

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The relevant governing authority will be familiar with their staff. This practice follows current procedures. Names of officiants would need to be inserted into a spreadsheet for all officials to view.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sounds sensible

Please share your views below:

Agree with the examples mentioned in the consultation paper eg political parties, trade unions

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Follows current practice .

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Should be made available for all parties concerned to see and access.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. They may need training on legal duties and will General Register Office carry this out? How will the training be monitored and evaluated?

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes as they will know their staff.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Agreed
2. Training will need to be provided on legal aspect of role.
3. Yes but difficult to implement. There may need to be a separate training group established to monitor and deliver training which could be appointed by GRO. There is already a National Training group in place which could assist.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but how will this be monitored? Should each group adopt a code of practice all officiants should adhere to?

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes. They should be able to operate at full cost recovery. Our experience shows that some venues may wish to appoint their own independent celebrants which may affect income for Local Authorities and other independent celebrants. Independent celebrants may wish to publish their fees for ceremonies just as churches and Registration Services do which will enable full and fair competition.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed . Otherwise no point in having different categories of officiants.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Solemnity and dignity will need defining to ensure consistency and best practice.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

GRO do not deliver ceremonies so may be best to include some Local Authorities/ Independent Celebrants to deliver this training with GRO input.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but how will this feedback be obtained and acted upon?

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed as we do not wish to bring the profession into disrepute.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

GRO may wish to delegate this work to the Local Authority.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To ensure consistency and standards should they re-apply every 10 years?

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed but a decision will need to be taken how often the CPD is required and how this will be monitored.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1a Agree

1b. Agree as the ceremony begins on a negative note and this existence of impediments will have been checked beforehand. However, it will deprive guests of the opportunity of coughing at that moment just to add to the tension!

2. Agree

3. Agree - but if the couple choose not to express this consent in the ceremony will the officiant need to inform witnesses and guests beforehand? Will the officiant need to ensure that the couple read/recite words that are on the schedule expressing consent?

4 Agree

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing to add

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes please. The fact that it is a civil ceremony could be outlined in the introduction to the ceremony.

T

Please share your views below:

The most asked for reading/promise is below and also hymns and carols.

Reading from Corinthians 13 about Love:- Love is patient, love is kind

To include promises from Book of Common Prayer:- to have and to hold from this day forward, in sickness and in health.....

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed as there will be no need for this.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree as long as Health and Safety requirements are met. This will remove a lot of red tape. Private homes will require an individual risk assessment before we send staff to an unknown location.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Outdoors is fine as long as weather is clement. Need a Plan B as well or lots of umbrellas and warm coats.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed as this causes unnecessary bureaucracy.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed as we should all respect each other's boundaries.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes with help of Local Authority Health and Safety if required. Officiant should assess before ceremony with suitable risk assessment.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree but what may compromise safe for one officiant may not be the same for another.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

GRO do not have much experience in the actual delivery of ceremonies and their locations. GRO should delegate this responsibility to Local Authorities who are more familiar with their local areas. GRO to provide some general guidance.

Also some registration officers may feel more comfortable with an area of higher risk than others.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A pre-approval process could be considered and would provide some certainty to couples that their ceremony could go ahead.

Please share your views below:

The responsibility will change depending on the choice of celebrant.

A checklist with requirements to be agreed. Not sure whether one size fits all would work for every location. These will evolve as experience is gained. There should be some flexibility as what one officiant may regard as risky another will regard as perfectly acceptable.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes but hope most of these details would be already known beforehand and included before signing.
2. Venue might be tricky to describe if in a field or hot air balloon.
3. Agreed

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree. Although when a document recorded in Welsh is presented for legal purposes in England it would need to be translated which would involve cost and delay for couple.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Agree as long as there was a schedule to sign at the ceremony

2. Agree.

3. Agree

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any one of these should suffice to make a non- qualifying ceremony.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

2. Agree – no longer relevant.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree – no time period required

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1. Agree but how will this be monitored? Should they show some ID to check against a database?

2. Agree – independent celebrants currently mislead couples into believing they are having a legal ceremony when they are not. If they are allowed to conduct legal ceremonies this will stop.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

- Ceremonies where one party has a terminal illness require a lot of resource at very short notice. Currently, there is a small charge to cover consideration of letter by GRO (£15) but no charge for this ceremony but many couples have indicated they would be willing to pay.
- Doctor's letter is crucial to allow this ceremony to take place. Registrars should be able to clear these letters without referring to GRO as this is an additional administrative burden.
- Detained/Housebound– also require a lot of resource and over complicated. They require particular forms to be completed by the governor of the prison or the GP to prove they are housebound/detained with time restrictions on them

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could present difficulties for the party who is terminally ill and would require attendance of the Registrar at the hospital/home or hospice to give NOM where now the “well” party can do this on their behalf. Often NOM is given and the ceremony takes place within hours rather than days. Couples seem to leave it to the last minute to decide to marry.

Terminally ill people are often more “conscious” at particular times during the day and this would mean staff having to see them for NOM at this time. Not all terminally patients are able to write and submit their Notice online due to their deteriorating health.

T often more “conscious” at particular times during the day and this would mean staff having to see them for NOM at this time. Not all terminally patients are able to write and submit their Notice online due to their deteriorating health.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree – could relieve some pressure in Register Office and NOM could be taken earlier when the ill person chose to do this rather than at the last minute.

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree as sometimes there can be a delay and 12 months would give everyone more time to organize things and avoid having to give NOM twice

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

1.Yes – great idea.

2.Yes

3.Happy to consider but not sure how this would work in reality with technology. It would have saved so much time and reorganization if we had the facility to do this in current pandemic. We have found that virtual citizenship ceremonies worked well.

4.Yes – to be done electronically with separate copies.

Yes – this would be welcome. Some doctors now will specify someone is at risk of death but this is insufficient for a wedding by RG licence.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agreed

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes – this would be welcome. Some doctors now will specify someone is at risk of death but this is insufficient for a wedding by RG licence.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the officiant had undergone required training.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not aware

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Agree – or could it be e-mailed/scanned to Registration Service to make them aware ceremony has taken place.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes – but cost recovery will be different in parts of the country. How will the national fee be calculated to ensure it will be acceptable in London as well as in other more deprived parts of the country?

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

1) On compassionate grounds – should be lower.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree - couples should be able to have a civil ceremony at a fee set by regulation but please make fee more realistic and at cost recovery. Suggest some flexibility on where the ceremony can take place and let each Registration Service decide where to hold their ceremony rather than being restricted to a particular room shown on a plan approved by GRO as it is now. This caused real issues in the current pandemic.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Agree but there may need to be some national guidance so we are all covering the same points.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- Agree and advocate this is set by Local Authority who are familiar with venues within their districts. This pre-approval could be shared with independent celebrants and a charge could be considered for this if appropriate.
- Or there could also be a national database under each district which could be accessed by all celebrants to check a venue and the existence of a pre-approval check.

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

- Currently some authorities pay their staff an hourly rate and some a per ceremony fee. The fee would need to take into account the fees being charged by independent celebrants to allow fair competition.
- It is not just travel time but the work involved in preparing the ceremony, collection of paperwork and post ceremony admin. How will this be costed?

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes fees should be the same. I hope location of ceremony will be more flexible too, particularly in a prison.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

We carry out 12 per year – happy to do these at no cost.

#### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As there will be work involved sounds reasonable for the Registrar general to prescribe a fee.

### Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

#### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1. Current law only gives couples a choice of religious or civil weddings when most couples want a blended approach. Cost of ceremony can sometimes be prohibitive for couples. We have noticed an increase in the number of civil partnerships taking place probably because couples are looking for something more modern and reflective of their lifestyles rather than the traditional wedding ceremony.

2. It would offer wider choice to couples and could increase number of weddings. Simplifying legal preliminaries may also encourage couples to marry. Feedback from couples is that it is complicated to get married – not all of them have relevant documents and the 7 days residency can cause problems for them.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. These are popular with couples who are then going on to have their “real” ceremony in a garden afterwards. The current fee does not cover the cost of delivering this ceremony and that is why we only offer 3 ceremonies per week. Couples complain about the lack of availability of these register office slots.

2. These costs vary and we recognise that we use these fees to subsidise the cost of running our offices and offering free birth and death appointments. Venues pay the same licensing fee no matter what their size or income and our fees are also the same whether you marry in a palace or a barn on a Saturday afternoon at 2pm. We feel that the fees we charge are a small proportion of the total cost of the wedding.

3. Our charges generally reflect cost of a full service in Church of England with the choir and bells. Fees for ceremonies in non- conformist churches are generally lower and couples are asked to give a donation for their ceremony. If a Registrar is required to attend the ceremony in a registered place of worship the fee charged does not cover the cost of attendance and training required.

4. These couples have a statutory ceremony and are then charged a fee by the Local Authority to have another ceremony in a garden or field. The fee charged includes a health and safety visit to the proposed venue to ensure it is safe for staff to attend. Same registrar is booked to conduct the ceremony. Couples want guests at the garden ceremony to believe this is a legal ceremony and try to persuade registrars to make it look this way which puts registrars in a difficult position. Really needs reforming and bringing up to date.

5. Most couples will book a statutory ceremony at £46 but it adds to the costs for the couple and removing the requirement would be welcomed and avoid confusion. It is particularly pertinent for couples who have had a ceremony at their home conducted by a religious leader which they believe to be their real ceremony but afterwards are required to book a legal ceremony to have their marriage recognized in law.

1 The proposals could reduce the number of Register Office weddings as outlined in point 1 above if couples could have a legal ceremony outside and anywhere. As only 1 Registrar will be required more of these ceremonies could be offered at a lower cost.

2. This would provide couples with wider choice. Local Authority would lose income from licensing venues but would need to carry out a visit to ensure safety of staff.

3. This will benefit couples who have had a religious ceremony and then are required to have another ceremony to prove they are legally married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. Some newer and smaller venues find it difficult to fund the licence fee although it is quite reasonable when spread over 3 years. We encourage our venues to licence every suitable space to give couples a wider choice when they come to book their ceremony. Partnership working with venues is important and we would not want to lose this important relationship.

2. More staff will be recruited and trained if there are not enough to meet demand. Our staff are paid per ceremony and this is reflected in fees we charge

couples which also includes a personal meeting with the Registrar and a bespoke ceremony. Having 1 Registrar attend a ceremony would allow us to double the number of ceremony slots we could offer to couples.

1.A visit would still be required to ensure safety of staff. Venues may welcome a relaxation in the rules but others may feel vulnerable without Local Authority support.

2.Local Authorities may lose registration staff who may set up as independent celebrants if Govt allows them to conduct legal ceremonies.

3.Wider choice for couples to be able to have a ceremony of their choice wherever they wish.

4.More couples may decide to marry if restrictions are lifted. However, no evidence to back this up just anecdotal.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Every Registration Service uses funds from its ceremonies to fund its provision of births and deaths. If this income is reduced or withdrawn funding will need to be sourced by the Local Authority to fund the statutory services or Government will need to provide funding for these services in future.

Wider choice for couples and less bureaucracy for Local Authorities to administer.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

More staff to cover more ceremonies as only 1 will be required for all civil weddings.

There will be loss of income for Local Authorities if these changes go through. There will also be more admin work for the authority regarding data inputting of all ceremonies. Cost of certificate will not cover the work so Local authorities will be operating at a loss.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. Couples often choose to marry abroad and say this is often due to high costs of weddings in UK.

2.Many couples living abroad come to UK to marry as regulations are relatively straightforward compared to other European countries. Couples from France and Germany in particular take this view.

Couples living abroad also return to marry with family present at ceremony. Students living abroad often choose to marry in the university city they studied in and 7 day residency rule can be difficult and costly for them.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

2.Many couples living abroad come to UK to marry as regulations are relatively straightforward compared to other European countries. Couples from France and Germany in particular take this view.

Couples living abroad also return to marry with family present at ceremony. Students living abroad often choose to marry in the university city they studied in and 7 day residency rule can be difficult and costly for them.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

- 1.Ceremony income brings in over 50% of our budget. Any reduction in ceremony income will create a financial burden to the Local Authority which has not existed previously.
- 2.More businesses may decide to offer ceremonies which will contribute to healthy competition but may mean some businesses will run into difficulty.
- 3.No comment
4. If independent officiants can conduct legal weddings at least they will no longer mislead couples about what they can offer. They may have an upper hand in their advertising campaigns compared to staff in Local Authorities who may be squeezed out.
- 5.Couples will have a wider range of choices which will be welcomed. The garden options will be particularly attractive. They will also be looking for some security around their ceremony and Local Authorities, registration officers and celebrants will need to ensure this is provided.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVR-C

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:28:37

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Many churches who do not have an authorised person owing to their size, then a couple would have a meaningful ceremony by having a civil registrar in attendance. If not, such couples would need a civil ceremony as well, separate from their church wedding. Many of these churches will not be able to conduct weddings unless they appoint an authorised person under these proposals.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No it should not. The phrase 'public policy or morality' is rather vague and subjective, and could be used to penalise moral views that are at odds with the prevailing opinion at the time, but are perfectly legal. It would be better to have more objective criteria such as illegal activity or undermining the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At present wedding officials are either trained registrars (as I am) or religious representatives who are likely to hold strong views on the importance of marriage. 'Independent' people would not necessarily place such a value on marriage. Independent officials who conduct currently non legally binding weddings in rather strange places, often undermine the dignity of marriage. There are many examples of this where people cannot be thinking seriously about what they are doing.

Opening up the market for independent officials turns wedding vows into a commercial concern, hence driving up the cost of weddings, not reducing the cost which is one of the Government's stated aims. There does not seem to be any safeguards or training in place for this.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Removing the prescribed words makes the ceremony as meaningless as the couple or officiant chooses. One would hope that the commitment in marriage should be taken seriously, with sincere promises made, otherwise it simply becomes a private matter.

Consultation Question 43:



No

Please expand on your answer:

Non-legal ceremonies can already be personalised and many are trivial and inappropriate, damaging the dignity of the wedding ceremony. Personalizing legal weddings removes the need for the ceremony to reflect the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The 'open doors' policy declares that the wedding is not a private affair, and that it is not of interest only to the couple.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Though there would be some advantages of changing the system, there must be clearer safeguards on what would be unsuitable venues. The statement that venues would need to be dignified and safe lacks clarity. Not objecting to weddings 'in the air' as a venue could hardly be described as 'safe' so these terms could be interpreted rather broadly.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFYM-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:29:02

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None - retired.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am a widower, married (in 1972) for 47 years after a legally recognised church wedding.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have had no direct experience with weddings but my niece got married at the end of October at a CofE wedding where only 15 people were allowed to attend. I have been told that, despite the consequent 'low profile' of the event, it was still a very meaning for the couple who married and those that attended.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that every step be taken to avoid undermining the seriousness of marriage.

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Notice should be given in person, unless there is a (very exceptional) reason for not doing so, again because it is important that every step be taken to avoid undermining the seriousness of marriage. The acceptable exceptional reasons need to be explicitly defined.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I would suggest 14 days, again unless there are exceptable circumstances which should be explicitly defined. Again, because it is important that every step be taken to avoid undermining the seriousness of marriage.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should not be possible for interviews to take take place remotely, except for exceptional circumstances which should be explicitly defined. Again, because it is important that every step be taken to avoid undermining the seriousness of marriage.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, as this is common sense.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In general yes, but should also appear 'in print' in a local paper, etc.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Please share your views below:

No - the reasons mentioned above are adequate.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The four nations of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England still form the United Kingdom. There is a case for no longer recognising Ireland since Brexit will happen on the 1st January 2021; although it is recognised the Irish Peace Accord could mean that it is diplomatically appropriate that Ireland should be included.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No - should continue as at present to protect against bigamy, etc.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes - helps pastorally and underscores the seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes - helps pastorally and underscores the seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - helps pastorally and underscores the seriousness of marriage.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes - helps pastorally and underscores the seriousness of marriage.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Continue as at present.

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some kind of independent means of ensuring “fit and proper” persons.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is very important to mitigate against 'down grading' of marriage and its importance for society.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, the expression "from making a business of officiating at weddings, by elevating the making of profits above the expression of their beliefs" needs a lot more defining.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In general yes but "conflict of interest" needs precise definition and there should be a standard fee for officiating at a wedding.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proposed duty, but I respectfully point out that Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and quality of character of the legal ceremony upholds the seriousness, dignity and solemnity of marriage. Therefore, 'dignity' and 'solemnity' need to specifically and explicitly defined to underscore and uphold a rigorous high standard.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible and ensures parity of standard and practice in conducting weddings.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a specific time limit with the option of re-registration (after assessment).

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The status quo of oral consent to marriage and no impediment should continue, otherwise there is a real risk that the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony will be seriously undermined, as will the commitment being made. If this proposal is accepted, in theory it would be possible for someone to get married without even being physically present at the 'ceremony'. It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into. There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony; the prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them as they wish. A wedding is not just about the couple. Two people enter into a union which has been legally defined and is understood by society. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration to marry: this is because marriage is far more than a private arrangement and just a matter between two people.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is the conclusion from my response to Question 42. I reiterate the marriage ceremony should be a seriousness and solemn event. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event. The notion that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage because a wedding is a public declaration in which society at large and the state have an interest.

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

### Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Flexibility should remain.

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of the wedding declarations. In fact, the open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriages. Although this is greatly diminished today it is still a problem in our society. As mentioned in my response to Question 42, removing this requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location



Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I reiterate: a marriage ceremony should be a serious and solemn event. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

While there are some specific benefits to having a wider variety of venues I caution against legitimising inappropriate settings. The practice of licensing premises should continue.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

My answers are derived from what is said above.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is derived from my views above.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If allowed, this will blur the distinction between belief and non-belief.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location needs to be formally approved by society at large, not by an individual; therefore, by some form of licensing as at present.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Answer as per the above. There is, in any case, a complete lack of clarity in how venues will be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

No

Please expand on your answer:

As per the above regarding comments made in response to Question 51.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See response to Question 52.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I would have thought this was self-evidently appropriate.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This seems sensible.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible - otherwise the seriousness and solemnity of marriage is undervalued.

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise the seriousness and solemnity of marriage is undervalued, together with a true understanding of what marriage is about.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This will help to make more distinctive what marriage is.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But "deliberately or recklessly mislead" needs clear and explicit definition.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no experience.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible, although provision for financially disadvantaged cases should be considered.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible and avoids exploitation.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible, although perhaps financial help be considered for 'hardship' cases.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this should be the appropriate response.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

My own opinion is that any change in getting married is likely to have only for good or not. The reason for this is that my opinion the main reason - whether articulated or not - is that our present society is generally one of less or non-commitment, especially in the matter of personal relationships. If the commitment element in weddings is loosened to facilitate this, however, then marriage is being undermined and the families concerned will ultimately be less stable.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The fact is that at the moment one of the reasons for not marrying is the total cost involved of getting married, for which the fees (£100s for church / religious venue, registry office and legal costs) are just a small fraction. The overwhelming proportion of the money involved is for the social aspect, namely, pre-wedding parties, a special (expensive) licensed wedding venue and wedding reception which can run into £1,000s or even £10,000s.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As has been previously stated there is already greatly reduced costs available through not having the expense of the social side of getting married. So the proposals, apart from, possibly, allowing 'home' weddings, is likely to have minimal impact.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

My view, in view of my remarks above, is that there will be minimal impact on the number of people getting legally married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no opinion.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have experience of 2: only in one case, out of many, was some difficulty in obtaining the special license required for marriage in an Anglican church.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no comment to make.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no experience.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I am not in a position to have a view.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVZ-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:35:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the purpose of changing existing requirement?

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I feel it is important to use in-person interviews entirely. It seems that the current use of 'technology' whilst useful in time saving, precludes people who are un-willing/unable to use such 'technology'

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly agree. However, you do not indicate if this is 'instead of' or 'additonal to' existing arrangement.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What schedule?

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No!

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But who will appraise, verify, authenticate,?

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely!

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To maintain standards, otherwise it would be a free-for-all. Everyone should be married under the same conditions.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It needs someone remote from the 'organisation' to control this.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Suggest 5 year term.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to allow people to be legally married without either, or both, being present at the ceremony.

To maintain the dignity and sincerity of marriage we need to continue the use of some legally binding prescribed words in ALL ceremonies.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and as such should be conducted in a serious way. Whilst it is a celebration for the couple it also effects others: it has public significance, including the nation. It should not be trivialised by allowing people to do their own thing!!

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As marriage affects the general population I feel that free public access should be allowed

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Boundaries need to be defined, The sanctity of marriage is difficult to uphold when ceremonies could be interrupted by extraneous audio/visual intrusions.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who will define 'safe' and 'dignified'? This should be a 'committee' decision. In industry we have Health and Safety committees, why is it now safe to rely on a single individual?

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above comment

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Pre-approval should not be optional.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I feel that witnesses are essential to validate the marriage

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please, what advantage/benefits are there in changing existing?

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to open floodgates for anyone to marry remotely. On face value I do not see any conditions surrounding this suggestion.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What counts as an emergency?

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With Doctors permission.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is agreed that marriage on ship is allowed.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

If a couple are serious concerning marriage I do not think that current legislation would discourage them.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFU2-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:36:52

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

This information is not confidential.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It was the traditional and the legal thing to do in a Christian setting recognised both by the law, and by witnesses at that event.

No

Please expand on your answer:

I have had a legally recognised marriage.

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To be registered in an English or Welsh registration district is viewed as necessary to prevent people arriving from abroad, and becoming married without due consideration of their terms and conditions.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The notice period is necessary, in order to personally identify the individuals who are about to be involved in this ceremony.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

It would be inappropriate for individuals to enter England Wales or Scotland in order to become married at a short notice. These in-person interviews are an important part of the legal processes which should proceed in due time.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It is difficult to identify persons who need to be interviewed remotely, but it is better than no interview occurring at all. There is a danger or a concern about sham for forced marriages, and the capacity of either party to consent to such an event. It is important that appropriate language is used at these events, so that the ability of the individuals to speak and have capacity to consent are also assessed appropriately. The fact that an interview has taken place, does not necessarily mean that the adjudicator agrees with the proposed wedding, and therefore it should be possible for the event to be cancelled, or inspected further, should suspicions arise.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, this should be possible, but with the constraints mentioned in the former answers above.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Church of England remains a church in which it is possible to perform appropriately legal marriage ceremonies, therefore it should be possible to publish banns from Ireland to be married in Church of England services.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The publication of banns to authorise an Anglican wedding should be able to be publicised in other appropriate Anglican churches or settings.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that participants in a marriage ceremony fully recognise the full importance of the steps which are about to be undertaken.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A registration officer should be able to attend small churches when that is necessary.

Many churches continue to rely on civil registrars to register weddings as they do not have an official authorised for that congregation or meeting place.

This proposal may pose a danger of some churches falling foul of wedding law if marriages at those places occur only occasionally, or there are unfamiliar regulations which need to be upheld.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only with appropriate training, and review of that training periodically.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Any officiant should be recognised by a national body in order that they are verified on some sort of national register which is publicly obtainable or observed. This register should be reviewed regularly at least annually.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This proposal sounds reasonable but there is a risk that it could become a mechanism for penalising views that contradict prevailing public opinion. Popular culture can be at odds with faithful Bible teaching on marriage sexual ethics and personal identities.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, since that officer may not be up-to-date with appropriate training in that sphere of work.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is also important to keep a live register of those officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These independent officiant may have various views on the importance of marriage, which would open the doors up to many varied views towards the process of being an officiant. Some of the ceremonies held by certain "celebrants" have held weddings that are not legally binding, in surroundings which are not appropriate to the solemnity of a lifelong marriage. Such places have been in swimming pools, in dungeons, and dressed as cartoon characters on Halloween. Such ceremonies might have become legally binding if independent officiants were allowed to be present in order to solemnise such an event. Some of these officiants may be pseudo-religious people where ceremonies might mis-represent the beliefs of the group of people overall. If these officiants are to be paid then that would set a precedent which encourages a financially competitive edge to ceremonies where this ought not to occur. Safeguards for the training of these officiants has not been laid out, therefore the beliefs of such individuals are open to question at such potentially serious ceremonies.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The terms “fit” and “proper” need to be operationally defined so that these terms are precise in meaning, and that the people involved fit the criteria which have been designated.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this fits my earlier comments.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be national limits set for fees, so that they are neither too cheap, nor too expensive. If the fees are too cheap, this would exemplify cheapness of the event, being too expensive might make the ceremony too prohibitive for those on low incomes.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the timescale between these events of requesting withdrawal of authorisation happens within a set time period of perhaps a month or two so that those who are required to withdraw do so within a prescribed time period.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This arrangement would provide appropriate oversight.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, this would add to appropriate oversight.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no upper age limit, however it ought to be necessary to retrain individuals at appropriate intervals my suggestion is every five years.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most professional bodies have a retraining period which is appropriate to the profession, and this agrees with my former comment that a five year retraining, or refresher, would be appropriate. A register of this retraining should be held at national level. This register should be accessible to the public.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is appropriate that prescribed words remain part of the ceremony in order to prevent a degeneration of the ceremony itself into a meaningless event. The promises between the parties should be founded on a sound understanding of the solemnity of these marriage ceremonies. These prescribed words need only be a small part of a wedding ceremony, however they are crucial in order to appropriately standardise the event across national boundaries, religions, and personal or corporate beliefs systems.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is highly important that a wedding ceremony fulfils legal requirements, around which personal preferences may be shaped. Each wedding is capable of being personalised after legal requirements have been met. The seriousness of each commitment at a wedding ceremony should be emphasised rather than making the event too subjective, even outlandish. The various Faith systems of the people involved would hopefully ring fence the components of the ceremony with an element of protection, dignity, and solemnity of the marriage event.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some faith and belief systems have recently become secularised in recent years so it is important across faiths to maintain high standards of proceedings and legislature of the ceremonies themselves.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is difficult to understand what "religious content" means in a secular context. If those participating in the ceremony believe in God, then prayer might be possible. However if the belief system in a secular context has no such belief, then how might prayer be possible? The ceremony is not only a public event, but also one which is performed before God, in appropriate religious contexts.

Please share your views below:

Please see the former comment.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to maintain the “open door” policy to emphasise that marriage is not only a personal event, but also important to society as a whole. The fact that the public are allowed to be present at such ceremonies provides an element of protecting against forced marriages, and bigamy for example.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There are advantages and disadvantages in altering current arrangements. An advantage is that some small churches use shared buildings such as community centres or schools for their meetings. Currently weddings cannot be held in those venues. However there is a risk that safeguards need to be put in place so that inappropriate venues may not be used for wedding ceremonies, and it is not currently known how such venues might be appropriately selected, or provided. The terminology used is that such venues should be “dignified and safe “ but currently lacks specification on how this will be tested or applied to any venue which might be used for a wedding ceremony. These terms “dignified and safe “need to be further operationally defined in order that

inappropriate venues are not selected for wedding ceremonies to take place. The public have been known for unofficial weddings to choose places such as dungeons, comic book conventions, a ruined leper hospital, and swimming pools. Such settings clearly trivialise marriage. The law must not allow such venues to have legally binding ceremonies in these places.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Any wedding ceremony should be held in a stable environment where those involved would be able to focus on the ceremony and its importance. The public should also be allowed to attend when they desire to do so. There are currently legal restraints on the number of respondents due to the Covid epidemic, however in general the number permitted to attend should be reasonable according to the law set at that time.

The risk with inland waters such as lakes or rivers is that they may be susceptible to flooding, and other weather variables which would put the respondents at risk. There have been cases where riverboats used for such ceremonies have capsized due to errant provision of safety measures being employed.

The risk with ceremonies held in the air is that the machines which are capable of flight may not hold sufficient capacity for all those who desire to be involved to be capable of being present. Such aircraft should be fully certified, and the pilots and assistants should not be distracted by the ceremony.

The risk with holding such ceremonies in private homes, is that the public may not be allowed into such venues as they ought to be.

The solemnity of the wedding ceremony should always be upheld to the highest standards, and should be considered to be a life long agreement between those involved in the ceremony. The venues in which marriage ceremonies are held should lean towards such solemnity and not away from it.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I have said before, the public availability at such events is important to emphasise that marriage is a social benefit to the whole community, and not just to those involved in the ceremony itself. As I have said before, the public availability at such events is important to emphasise that marriage is a social benefit to the whole community, and not adjust to those involved in the ceremony itself.

### Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are sufficient venues at present for non-religious weddings to occur where that is desired. There should not be a reason for non-religious belief organisations to take over religious venues in order for a wedding to occur. The whole point of using a religious venue would be to recognise that the ceremony is not performed merely before people, but also in the sight of God. The legality of such ceremonies should be duly monitored as my previous comments suggest.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should only occur with sufficient legal oversight of the venue, its participants, and those otherwise involved in the preparation of the premises. It is important that the premises used are not supplied ad hoc, but for use on a regular basis as a certified and publicly recognised venue for such ceremonies to occur.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The terms 'safe', and 'dignified' should both be operationally defined. There are many reasons why one or the other of these terms might be used in order to prevent the ceremony going ahead.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please see my former comment.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This helps to ensure conformity across local and National boundaries.

Please share your views below:

Those in charge of each venue should be held accountable for ensuring that the venue conforms to national standards, similar to the powers held by the Health and Safety Executive of the U.K. Inspectors should be able to inspect premises without prior notice, and have powers to rescind permission from the use of venues if the officiants do not comply with improvement notices within a reasonable time.

This would also mean that the inspection officers would need to be able to access a national database of the names and addresses of those premises, and that appeals might be made to an Ombudsman who has a final say for decisions in favour or against certain premises being used in the future. Evidence should be weighed accordingly, and it should be possible for local teams of inspectors to refer cases upwards to more senior members, as occurs in many National Organisations.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Part 3 should include "parent or legal guardian". A suitable respondent list should be available at each venue.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I hold no firm views on this matter.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would make the public aware of the legality of the ceremony, from records which are publicly available. The fees for such enquiries should be reasonable.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



3. & 4. should state 'the knowledge of one or both parties'.

I do not agree that same-sex marriages are permissible on any account, as they breach higher laws.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Mistakes can be corrected and initialled, if the full name of those initials are available on the document.

2. The officiant might in exceptional circumstances also be a witness.

3. There should not be any excuse for not signing the schedule. If the officiants or parties involved collapse, or are incapacitated part-way through the ceremony, it should be able to be re-run at an appropriate time and venue.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please see my former comment on same-sex marriage.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It should not depend on co-habitation but on consummation of the marriage after the ceremony itself.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is marriage, not a public presumption only.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It could be shortened to one or two years.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

None.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no firm view of this matter.

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the identities of those involved can be suitably verified, and only in exceptional circumstances where secondary legislation is in place.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The phrase 'at risk of death ' needs to be more fully explained. Would this be an imminent risk, or one which is genuine, or perceived to be genuine? Who might the person be who makes this decision? This whole question is not clear.

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where those places are deemed to be both dignified and safe, as discussed earlier.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Where those places are deemed to be both dignified and safe, as discussed earlier.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

An oil rig might be considered to be a suitable place, also; in a designated room, such as a chapel or prayer room.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. I agree with.
2. I have already discussed my views on independent officials.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I am not aware of such demands.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This depends on the mode of travel which is utilised. If the travel is by rail, I would hope that it would be standard class, not first class. Similarly for other forms of transportation. I agree that fees should be set nationally on a cost recovery basis.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

The diagnosis of a terminal illness ought to be verified by a second consultant opinion, before rule 2 is activated.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a national standard for such fees to be set equitably.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have no such evidence.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no such evidence.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no such views.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no such views.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I have no such views.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no such evidence.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9V-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:37:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Our current law is quite sufficient and encourages commitment, recognising the deep importance of sharing, caring and loving one another to the intimate exclusion of others. This is foundational to the stability of our society and the security of family life.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFA5-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:39:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If there is no longer a residence requirement then there should be no need for online registration and all registrations should take place in person

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot see why the CoE or CoW should have different rules

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officials should not be compelled to conduct a ceremony that conflicts with their personal religious convictions eg if they disagree with same sex marriage

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a national scale of fees chargeable that can be reviewed every 5 years

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The terms dignity and solemnity should be carefully defined

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should continue to be seen as a public act not just a personal decision and this rule makes this clear

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVW-G

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:40:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a legal marriage

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 2:



Please share your views below:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All my weddings have either been postponed or cancelled as couples wish to hold a larger style celebration.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is good to have some connection to the area the wedding is taking place and gives some security that there is a real intention of a marriage to take place.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Need to make sure that those who are proposing to get married are indeed the couple who will get married.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Unless there is a life limiting condition of any of the immediate wedding party.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes but should be via zoom or something so that visual confirmation can take place.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

With Scotland we are one country, with those at sea there should be some leeway. It is important to check identities though and to confirm that there is a true intention for a marriage.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most people are online now anyway and few attend registry offices to check the boards

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No should be in the parish where couple are to marry and each of their home parishes if they are having a church wedding.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, security, security, security especially relevant on identity fraud and to check that the wedding is not a sham one.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, gives a bride who may be under duress to speak freely.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If couples want it and the church is happy why can't they have it

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A couple should be able to get married when, where and how they please

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A couple should be able to get married where they wish so long as it is safe

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would then mean private homes could be a place for marriage

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

Places for worship should remain so and officiated by those learned in the faith

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs to be some regulation possibly from local government

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Local Government need to be involved so that some generalisation of standards is maintained.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage needs to be witnessed and registered

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise what is the point of a marriage ceremony

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Everything should be done to facilitate a marriage as quickly and as easily as possible for those who have a terminal illness

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law is restrictive in that premises have to be licenced for a legal marriage to take place. Celebrants should be able to train and be registered as an officiant although there should be a regulation to ensure that Celebrants are trained to a high level and conduct themselves in the same manner as registrars. There should be a central record for marriage registration and extensive training, with some qualification given.

It should be possible for couples marrying in this country to have the same freedoms as those marrying in the USA or Australia for instance. Although as with these countries the legal paperwork should be undertaken by town hall registrars - the way that City Hall does for the USA.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples who wish to get married where how and when they wish conduct a simple ceremony in a registry office for the legal paperwork and then have a wedding ceremony which reflects their personality. Wish for the personalised wedding ceremony to have legal significance.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMD-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:46:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think that in-person interviews are vital to prevent sham or forced marriages. Forced marriages of south Asian girls in their early teens to much older men is a growing problem which should be acknowledged and resisted.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Although a marriage affects the whole community, I think a couple should have the right to limit the amount of publicity attached to their wedding. A couple should be able to tell their friends but not their foes.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Banns were useful when people never moved far from their home town or village. In today's highly mobile society, they are a quaint tradition but not likely to prevent any unlawful marriage.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

The church where the wedding is to take place may not be attended by either bride or groom. If banns are to be read, they must include the churches where the bride and the groom worship.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The church should be the body to decide the requirements for clergy when a church wedding is requested. It is canon law, not civil law.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, both the aspiring bride and aspiring groom should make a statement that there is no known impediment.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is first and foremost a religious ceremony. Civil law has been added to protect parties when the marriage contract is broken or abused.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. An example would be Islam, which allows a man to take up to four wives. This devalues and demeans women. It must not be allowed to seep into our culture.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

As question 26

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a very serious matter (as well as joyous) and the ceremony should reflect that seriousness and solemnity.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and the guidance should contain a set form of words, as at present.

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious and the foundation of society. Both bride and groom should give verbal assent to the marriage during the ceremony. Other things may be added to personalise the ceremony, but the basics must remain. Anything less would allow a person to be married without their consent or even their presence, which could lead to abuse of the system.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The form and ceremony must be retained in order to preserve the solemnity and seriousness of what is taking place. The ceremony is not just for the couple. The whole of society has a stake in marriage. It is the 'gold standard'. The seriousness of a promise to be kept 'as long as we are both alive' must be retained.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The legal requirement for public access to wedding venues was introduced centuries ago to try to prevent forced marriages. Since forced marriages are on the rise in this country, particularly among immigrant communities, this safeguard should be retained for the sake of the young women involved.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The location of a wedding ceremony has a huge implication on the perceived solemnity and dignity of the occasion. The time for a party is afterwards, not during the ceremony.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

No to each. Marriage is serious and solemn. It is the most important legal contract anybody enters into in their life. The surroundings should be in keeping with that importance.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

These are issues which should be decided by the leaders of the religious (or non-religious) organisations.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That would be too vague. An officiant might decide to authorise a wedding at a location which detracted from the seriousness of the occasion. Firm guidelines are needed.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Dignified' is too loose a term. It is too open to interpretation. Law must use specific language to determine what locations are permissible and dignified.

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Dignified' is too loose a term. It is too open to interpretation. Law must use specific language to determine what locations are permissible and dignified.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People need to know that a location is acceptable at a very early stage in planning the wedding.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMS-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 15:48:42

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Name:

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

None during this period

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement offers opportunity to focus on the impending commitment and life changing relationship about to happen. Opportunity and time for reflection in a world that is 'time poor.'

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's a decision for life, not something to be 'squeezed in' to a crowded calendar, in a busy world. Slow down. Consider well. That takes time.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

The final commitment is for life. Therefore, take time to consider.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

All 'face to face'.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Whatever leads to the right decision.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But also in the time honoured places, as ever.

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Support the status quo

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But need bulwark of law to ensure the 'content and tone' upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If this means that, in certain circumstances, you can sign a consent declaration to be married, without being there, I would most strongly disagree.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the centre circle at Wembley Stadium? I don't think so. If this is passed into law, it will, in time, trivialise marriage and society will be the poorer.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayer or music.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No. Let each partner's sensitivities and beliefs be accommodated. Status quo to remain.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Status quo please. Transparency required.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Solemnity consonant with the commitment for life.

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

In extremis, a death imminent, for example. Otherwise, status quo. Any innovation risks, guarantees, trivialisation, and a greater chance of failure, to the detriment of the parties and to society as a whole.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public transparency

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Let agreement and practicality find its own resolution on this matter

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, if the matter is in extremis ( a bedside ceremony with someone close to death) but no, if it's somewhere that diminishes the tradition and public understanding as an approved location.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But, please, some legal safeguards for what is 'dignified'. Easy for wedding party to pressure officiant into what trivialises the ceremony, and marriage, which is the bedrock of our society. Without the legal safeguards, your proposal, if carried, will in time lead to a diminution of marriage as a commitment and chance for two people to grow together in a lifetime's union.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The guidance is key

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A witness is necessary surely?

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Expedience and time remaining should be the guide

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Only in an emergency

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only in extremis

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF98-N

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the words stress the parties say they are free to marry and they want to marry. This should be clear to everyone present.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding should be a public agreement by the couple that they are free to marry and want to marry, with the wording approved by the state. The result should be a legally binding agreement.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public statement of commitment and so should, in principle, be in public. This will help to avoid forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should be a public ceremony and should be held in a fixed, known location, which is publicised in advance.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

These do not seem to be "public locations" which can be advertised in advance and allow access to the public during the ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage should be an agreement by a couple recognised by the state as being a legally binding agreement. The public need, in principle, to have access to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Strong guidance is needed on what the conditions are for approval of a locations - such as licensing by the local authority. It should not be left to the individual officiant to make a decision.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Local Authority should oversee the approval of wedding locations, following detailed guidance from the legislation, and decide whether "safe" and "dignified" apply. It should not be up to an individual officiant.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only with agreement with Local Authorities.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF96-K

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### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a church does not have their own registrar then they would need to make use of a civil registrar.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This could adversely affect churches the hold biblical views of marriage that are becoming increasingly different from popular opinion.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

ceremonies that take place underwater for example should not be able to be legally binding as this would undermine the dignity of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Prescribed word are important to keep the dignity and legally binding nature of marriage

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More important to for the words to be appropriate than to be personalised to the couple

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage affects other people not just the couple so it should be open to the public

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Taking place in a sadomasochism dungeon would not be good.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF94-H

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It also needs to go further than this.

How do we define dignity and solemnity in our society?

Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One cannot be able to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

This also seems to be a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined.

So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This does not reflect the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony.

A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.

The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

This was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society.

Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again this undermines the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Limit all of these - see the reasons above

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once again this deligitimises the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFM2-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:01:00

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

The General Conference of the New Church

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Dignity and solemnity are very formal-sounding terms, which many people may think unnecessary. But dignity and solemnity do not mean the exclusion of joy and celebration, or an element of informality. Quite the contrary! The focus is on the essential meaning and significance of an enduring marriage relationship, which is to provide a secure, loving environment in which a couple can grow and mature and develop their identities, and in which children can experience a safe place as they, too, grow and develop. The marriage relationship is a serious matter, a fundamental building block of a compassionate society, requiring recognition and respect. Dignity and solemnity are entirely appropriate as a man and woman set out on their voyage together. Alongside sits the need for the content and tone of the marriage ceremony, and this responsibility must be placed upon officiants. Furthermore, dignity and solemnity require settings that are compatible with and support the wider aims of a marriage ceremony. Settings, content and tone - the importance of these should not be under-estimated.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This creates a very loose approach to the ceremony, and for what purpose? Of course, the current declaration can be modified up-dated, but it forms only a very small part of a whole ceremony. Marriage is not simply a personal matter; it is also a public event, a universally recognised relationship. Moreover, it is a legally defined institution, so surely it is right that the central wording and statement of commitment should be one that all marriage ceremonies include. There is something important to be said for having a common declaration which applies to every marriage ceremony. For couples to be able to say virtually anything they want carries a real danger of trivialising and downgrading an event which is, arguably, the most important step any couple can take. Furthermore, the couple are at liberty to negotiate with the officiant the inclusion of additional words of their own choice.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should people be prevented from attending a ceremony? It only serves to privatise what is essentially a public event. It is not just a marriage between two people, otherwise why would the state be involved at all, and why would we waste time and resources enacting laws surrounding marriage? Neither should it be forgotten that forced marriages remain a problem in the UK, which closed doors would only exacerbate.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:



While there may be good intentions behind this proposal, there is little doubt that there are likely to be many occasions when the choices are trivial, inappropriate, and entirely out of keeping with the dignity and solemnity integral to a marriage ceremony. Why on earth would the state add its support to such a development. Marriage ceremonies are not about stunts, nor should they be reduced to a search for the next crowd-pulling venue. Can the state not, at least, lend its support to providing an environment and ambience that is in keeping with the seriousness of what a couple are agreeing to do?

Please share your views below:

Again, a marriage is a public event, so any venues that rule out participation and attendance, and which effectively privatise the ceremony, are inappropriate.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Reasons cited in several previous answers.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

To place such responsibilities upon individual officiants feels like the state trying to evade its responsibilities. What happens if officiant X determines that a venue is inappropriate, and then officiant Y next week decides it's fine? It's nonsense! A cop out! It is the state's responsibility to act on behalf of its citizens, as with so many other aspects of life.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This a possible way forward but beware confusion.

Please share your views below:

A public body,, such as a local authority, or the General Register Office.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that regulations in and of themselves act as a deterrent, nor do I think that a free-and-easy, laissez-faire approach does anything to encourage a couple to work through the main issues involved in marriage, and to prepare themselves for what may lie ahead. A focus on what might be called the "external" issues omits the far more important matter of helping couples fix their primary attention on the "internal" factors that will support them in building a long-term relationship which will be of benefit not only to themselves but to society in general.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Increasing commercialism and all the associated pitfalls affect not only marriage ceremonies but so many other aspects of contemporary life. It is the expectations of society, alongside the various pressures, that can have a negative impact, and undermine the prime purposes of marriage which, in essence, are not about the form and nature of the ceremony but about lifelong, eternal values and objectives.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVX-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:03:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a church recognised by law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The reducing of requirements for marriage is a retrograde step in any form.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Disagree

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

There should be a wider opportunity to view just in case there is a proper challenge to be made that the wedding does not meet regulation.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would exclude many churches who are not able to provide authorised persons.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:



Please share your views below:

The wording used here is too wide ranging all sorts of strange beliefs / views could legitimately come under the wording here.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would allow for 'marriage' ceremonies to take place that would be a mockery of the belief that marriage is a binding contract intended for life.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes regarding the letter of the law but not regarding the religious aspects.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes subject to No.41

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The promises made in the marriage ceremony should be taken very seriously. If proper prescribed words are not included then it could be made a virtually meaningless 'part' stunt.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious commitment and there should be a standard which makes people really give consideration to that which they are entering into.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If weddings are by invitation only how would it work if the person who knows that there is a legal problem with the wedding is not able to access it and question impediment?

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there has to be some guidelines - the mind boggles as to where some people may choose to have a wedding which should be in a place where the seriousness of the occasion can be reflected upon in a dignified way.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The particular venue must be able to decide to accept a request to hold a wedding in accordance with their own beliefs and constitution / rules and regulations.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The particular venue must be able to decide to accept a request to hold a wedding in accordance with their own beliefs and constitution / rules and regulations.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Health and safety executive?  
Set criteria for approval as a venue.

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Standards are important

No

Please expand on your answer:

Standards are important

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9F-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:05:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

No to the second question

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be restrictive on smaller CofE churches holding weddings

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding and marriage have a specifically defined meaning within Scripture

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

What is the objective meaning of "contrary to public policy or morality" and who decides this?

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words are an essential form of the ceremony and marriage

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Prescribed words are given for good purpose - making up one's own is no substitute

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public declaration and should remain so

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are inappropriate venues for the solemnity and seriousness of the undertaking of marriage

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVU-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:05:53

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am widowed after over fifty years of good marriage. My marriage was recognised in law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not applicablNot

No

Please expand on your answer:

We ust wished to be traditionally married

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

WE were legally married . so far all the questions in this are biased against legal marriage.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Seems irrelevant

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Intrusive rubbish

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Interviews before marriage \_what planet do you live on. This type of questioning PERVERTS JUSTICE

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should only take place if the reasons for a marriage are doubtful. In my own case and dozens of others I can think of no such reasons

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I am from England, my wife was Scottish. There was never any such stupid question.

IS THIS JUST ANOTHER TACKY NAIL in the coherence of the UK?

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not everybody is on line. It is another silly attempt to downgrade both the UK and marriage.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What schedule?

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

So as the officiate is licensed to marry people it is a matter for the couple and officiates

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This gets sillier as it goes on

Please share your views below:

Of course: our minister changed

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why are these documents so biased against our traditional way of life?

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More rubbish

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

possibly but why?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Is this a totalitarian state. This whole consultation is rubbish

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No they do so at the wedding

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

And by the Church of Scotland

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but not 20

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

More bureaucracy!!

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But how and define

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes to 1 and 2 but NOT 3

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but, eg Institute of Personnel Management

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More jargon driven bureaucracy!!

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is a nonsense political non-consultation

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But it is religious

Please share your views below:

Of course they should be allowed. Would you ban them?

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why what's wrong with religion@

Consultation Question 47:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In certain cases

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some where serious

Please share your views below:

Give weddings dignity and some solemnity

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

With sympathy and care

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Providing they are alive they should be able to marry

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Perhaps

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is not the business of the State

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not fundamentally the State's business

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Another bad question: cruise ships-why not. Bays and international/offshore waters probably not

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

HMS ships Major ship owners, general cargo and passenger ships nothing too frivolous

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Your proposals would deter people from marrying. They would NOT increase demand

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

If two people wish to marry the above provide plenty of opportunities

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

These costs are irrelevant

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local authorities should have no place in marriages

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Irrelevant

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

UK is one country

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

UK is one country

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Any extra costs including this so-called consultation should be paid for mainly by the idiots who designed it



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVJ-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:15:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Many couples were disappointed that they could only have a few attendees. But the ceremony and commitment was important to them

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Connection to the area where you live is important

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

If we are seeing marriage as a permanent commitment, remote interviews are not adequate

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the substitute is qualified to act and provide a suitably dignified ceremony

Please share your views below:

Like what?

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is that because we no longer expect war damage?

What if war breaks out again? Would we need that law? If not, the answer is Yes

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

That sounds sensible but the couple may not be known there

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a National standard defining fit and proper persons and they should be trained

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should be standardised

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a definition of those words

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation may have low standards

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Must avoid the possibility of marriage being just signing documents.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are important serious commitments to be made and we must avoid DIY marriage as it diminishes its dignity. There are plenty of ways to personalise the ceremony whilst retaining the legal requirements

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It's a public ceremony, not private

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some places would seriously undermine the dignity and permanence of the ceremony.

Please share your views below:

In the air and on the water would seem to deny any sense of dignity, rather a pursuit of entertainment and difference.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

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Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF5C-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:16:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Coventional religious marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Our choice to have a formal religious wedding.

No

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Retain the status quo.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No, they should be advertised in the neighbourhood church where each is resident.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree with both requirements.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree wholeheartedly.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican clergy should continue to be registrars in their own right.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Officiants should be properly authorised by Government, and should not be "Tom, Dick or Harry".

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with 2) but the organisation should be a registered charity, or have very many more members than 20.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

i agree they should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

agtree

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a statutory limit to fees chargeable.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The words "Dignity and Solemnity" should be objectively defined, and not be subjectively interpreted. The emphasis should be to ensure that the seriousness of the marriage contract is reinforced by the wording, and dignified surroundings of the occasion.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Request should come only from the nominating organisation, and not by any random third party, to be ratified by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1) agree.

2,3) & 4) There should be no flexibility as to the words to be used by the participating couples. The wording should be laid down in law to define what the contract and purpose of marriage is, and couples must both be present at a proper ceremony and required to repeat them in front of witnesses and should not be free to say as much or as little as they choose. The emphasis must be to ensure that the life-long intention and seriousness of the marriage is stated and accepted by the participants from the outset., this to be reinforced by the dignity and appropriateness of the surroundings.

The importance of witnesses being present, and there being a prescribed form of marriage laid down in Law is to reinforce the fact that this is a public legal contract, recognised by society at large, and not just a private arrangement between a couple for their own purposes.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The form and ceremony of a marriage should be dictated by the importance of reinforcing the fact that a marriage is a matter of significance to society and the State, and not just a matter of choice and convenience of the couple. Nothing should be allowed to take place during the actual ceremony which detracts from the seriousness of the contract being entered into, Light heartedness should be confined to any celebratory party after the ceremony, when it should be welcomed in a note of celebration and joyfulness..

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst there need be no universal rules about the broad form of a wedding ceremony, it must contain the words of the marriage contract as defined in Law, to be repeated at the time by the couple before witnesses and may be subject to any special requirements of the relevant faith body. There need not be any legal limitations on who can have one of the weddings mentioned, though each denomination should be allowed to set its own rules.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe this would be broadly welcomed.

Please share your views below:

At civil weddings I believe specific examples of religious content, ie hymns, prayers, blessings etc., should be decided by the couple according to their individual preference, but should always be in a form serious enough not to invite ridicule. There should be no "spoof" religious content.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important for a marriage to be seen as a matter of public interest, and there should be an opportunity and a right for any one of the public to object, albeit not facetiously. Locked doors might provide an opportunity for a forced marriage to take place "under wraps". Marriage should always be seen as more than a private arrangement between a couple or their families.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely disagree. Weddings should always take place in a place, indoors or out of doors, licensed for weddings. The seriousness of the commitment being undertaken must be emphasised by the dignity of the environment, and such licensing should be refused if that requirement is not met.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

Outdoors in a properly licensed environment as in previous answer may be permitted, but none of the other venues listed. The only exception might be private homes where there is a limiting health consideration, but this would require proper authorisation.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The public must always have the right to attend, as a marriage is not just a private arrangement between a couple, but a matter of significance to society and the State. There must be no opportunity for forced marriages to take place behind closed doors.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The difference between civil and religious ceremonies must be maintained where location is concerned,. But content should be allowed to be flexible, subject to the Law prescribing the precise wording of the marriage contract.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The appropriateness of the location should be subject to approval by the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but always within the approval of the General Register Office. Weddings should never be permitted in random locations purely at the whim of the couple.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but within strict parameters. No facetious, quirky or unconventional locations. The importance must always be to maintain the dignity and solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Type of locations must be strictly defined and not subject to arbitrary choice.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1) Genuine mistakes can always be corrected and should not in themselves invalidate a marriage.

2) Witnesses must always be present.

3) This should invalidate a marriage.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But lack of consummation, rather than not cohabiting, should always be capable of being a reason to invalidate the marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should always be a fact and not a presumption.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1) Yes.

2) 3) 4) DEFINITELY NO. Nothing should be permitted in the absence of the parties concerned.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to safeguards to avoid loopholes.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No - always on dry land in legally approved locations. The only exception might be for two serving Royal Naval personnel on board one of Her Majesty's ships on a long assignment, where the Captain or Chaplain could officiate. Documentation might have to be remote in those circumstances.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Except for Naval personnel, see above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Weddings should always be held on dry land in the country of jurisdiction in or on premises properly approved by the General Register Office. Exception might be for serving Naval personnel - see above.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Marriages on ships of any description should not be permitted, apart from the case of Naval personnel on board their ship - see above, when the Captain or Chaplain should officiate.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, as above, except for serving Royal Navy personnel on board their ship as above.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This to apply only in the case of Royal Navy personnel on board their ship.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There may be occasional demand, but this should not be permitted, except in the case of serving Royal Navy personnel - see above.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

1) The current Law does not seem to affect those who wish to get married.

2) I don't believe the current Law needs to be changed in principle.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Whatever the impact might be, the current Law should not be changed. The importance is to maintain the dignity, solemnity and seriousness of the marriage contract., and that it should not be made easier purely to facilitate marriages that are not intended to be permanent.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Nothing should be done to discourage the intended permanence of marriage , or to play down the solemnity and seriousness of the marriage contract.. It is an established fact that children thrive best in a happy and permanent marriage. Any perceived cost and inconvenience that present arrangements involve should not be an excuse for making it easier to go into and out of marriage.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please see reply to previous question.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please see reply to previous two questions.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cannot comment.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cannot comment.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

However inconvenient, the Law and resulting procedures should not be changed.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The Law should not be chaged.

Whilst the current Law should not change, some additional provision might be made for the marriage at sea of serving personnel of the Royal Navy to be married at sea on their own vessel.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVD-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:17:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a total commitment of one person to another

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Location or irrelevant to commitment

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Space to teflect

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There needs to be a check against sham

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes continue as at present

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Online plus in a public place

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To give space for unforeseen snags

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Safe proceduere

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense

Please share your views below:

No. The licence given substitutes should be circumscribed

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? Distance is not an issue.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The church should be currently active

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. Any public place would suffice

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes, to ensure integrity

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. Crucial to ensure voluntary commitment to marriage

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, to relieve registrars

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This ensures voluntary engagement

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessarily. In an emergency a civil officer could stand in for a cleric

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

One's enough

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

They need to be attached to a church, to prevent bogus 'clerics'

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If this is what the couples want

Please share your views below:

I have views. They simply need to give good credentials to the Law.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Obviously. You cannot support crime!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yrs

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To control 'officiants' and establish a legal marriage

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be set fees, to discourage extortion

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage between a man and a woman

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the marriage is between a man and a woman

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayers and bible readings

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples might prefer to have the two

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a guard against a forced wedding

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No restriction

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Stick to one form or another. Do not mix

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Stick to the one process

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I not approve same-sex marriages

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a good sign for a marriage but not a definite commitment

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it's null it's null

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Marriage to go ahead

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any boat as long as legal requirements are observed

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Do not know

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The same fee

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Generosity

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

It is hard to tell whether these proposals will encourage or discourage. Fashion and laissez faire affect decisions

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The has to be a cost for the ceremony to cover expenses of Registrars etc and overheads on venues

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

People spend more on a photographer than the ceremony. The cost puts a value on the event

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No data available

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Existing deployment of registrars are necessary safeguard against corrupt practice.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Not happy. Present requirements a safeguard.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

There are expense costs. They need to be paid. No need for excessive charges

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9Y-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:19:01

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some small not-civil wedding do not have an authorised person able to conduct the wedding but do not want a civil wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Do not agree that this would be easy to establish. Who makes this judgement. There should surely be objective criteria at play here. What if this is used to exclude unpopular but legitimate beliefs.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There would be no control over the people engaged in carrying out weddings. The dignity of marriage could easily be undermined by inappropriate people conducting marriages.

A strange market in conducting weddings could be opened up that would undermine the aims of the Government in reducing costs of wedding venues.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is something solemn and dignified about public declarations that should be maintained.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be in a location that reflects the solemnness of marriage rather than turning it into something theatrical and trivial.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public and open affair. Turning it into a secretive matter could cause issues in cases involving forced marriage or bigamy.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any venue should take place in a venue that is suitable for the dignity and solemnity of the marriage that is being solemnised.

Please share your views below:

Marriage ceremonies should not become gimmicky but should reflect the solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand the question

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For security concerns

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage should only be legal if it has been carried out properly.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9N-B

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:22:46

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My church does currently have an authorised person to oversee the signing of the register and to ensure that the prescribed words are said at weddings. A wedding ceremony at the church would be very meaningful to the marrying couple and, should at any time the church be without an authorised person, a couple should not have to take part in a civil ceremony in addition to a religious one.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Prevailing opinion tends to change over time and that which is considered unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality now may well be thought of otherwise in time to come. Popular culture is becoming more and more at odds with biblical teaching on marriage.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding officiants are currently either highly trained registrars or religious representatives who would have strongly-held beliefs regarding marriage. Independent officiants could open the door to those who may not value marriage as highly. There have been a number of cases where ceremonies have been held in exceedingly unsuitable conditions and places. Such ceremonies could be legally binding if independent officiants were allowed and the dignity of marriage would be undermined. A recent study found that most independent celebrants would give couples very little restriction in what they could include in their ceremony. This sets a very low standard regarding the seriousness of a wedding.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Without the prescribed words the wedding ceremony could be as meaningless as a couple chooses, and legal marriage could become nothing more than a certificate from the Government.

Marriage is founded on solemn promises made between two parties. Under these proposals it would be possible to have a legally recognised wedding in which no words were said between the couple, and no promises made.

The commitment made in marriage must be taken very seriously, and without the prescribed words it is much easier to treat the ceremony casually.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The possibility of self-styled wedding ceremonies will encourage commercialisation. Those more willing to be flexible with the ceremony would be likely to profit the most, encouraging people to push the boundaries.

It is far more important that a legal wedding ceremony should reflect the gravity of the commitment the parties are making than that it is personalised to the couple.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private affair. It should be seen in its importance to society.

Ensuring that weddings are open to any member of the public, rather than just those invited, is a way of protecting against instances of bigamy and forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some churches do not own their own premises but worship in shared buildings like community centres and here a change in the law would be useful. However it could be all too easy to use inappropriate and unsuitable or even unsafe venues. Nowhere that could trivialise a marriage should be considered.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFME-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:27:45

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Select

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

We were unable to attend my brother's wedding because of the restrictions.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For such a serious and momentous day, it should be a necessity to be resident in the UK for the required 7 days. This should also reduce the risk of forced marriage.

### Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

In order to protect against forced marriage or any other coerced situation.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in-person interview should be a pre-requisite for ascertaining the intentions and desires of each party (to protect against sham and forced marriage).

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I think the clergy should meet the individuals separately and have the power to call for any necessary documentation- again to protect against forced or sham marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely essential to confirm this information.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

To protect the dignity and respect of this timeless marriage contract and to ensure all parties recognise the gravity of the marriage commitment.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officials at weddings should be clergy or Government employed registrars in order to protect the dignity of marriage. If anyone who is part of the governing body of an organisation can conduct a marriage then standards of conduct and respect for marriage can be variable.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above, officials should be limited to clergy of a church or to government-employed registrars.

Please share your views below:



Only church groups should be able to officiate at a marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As stated above, marriage needs to be protected in its sincerity and gravity.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Extending the scope of people who would like to officiate at a wedding ceremony reduces its dignity and sanctity.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but the officiant should also have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of the marriage by ensuring the tone and content is appropriate.

Also, the proposals need to define what is meant by the terms 'solemnity' and 'dignity' as the consultation seems to think marriage ceremonies in the air are suitable which suggests that many proposals for a ceremony would be suitable.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Which must include the nature and tone of the ceremony

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be a responsibility of the state to ensure the sanctity of marriage remains. The state should vet all officiants if not clergy.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The CPD must be provided by the government and include the public nature of marriage and its importance both on a personal level and on a societal level.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being at their own wedding.

There should be a prescribed contract with some set words. This is the foundation of our marriage contract. The above proposals allow the couple potentially to say nothing at all.

There should be some minimum phrases which are agreed by both people underlining its importance in our society and to their lives.

This risks undermining the solemnity of the occasion and the seriousness of the marriage vows.

Marriage is not a private event but a public one and so it is not for a couple to consider their own wording but for society to provide the basic constructs of what that must entail.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would undermine the seriousness of the event. The format for the ceremony should be dependent on whether it is fitting for such a ceremony and not merely because the couple prefers that particular style.

The public have an interest in that marriage and therefore it is fitting that society provide the framework. For a couple to choose their own marriage ceremony without any constraints is the wrong viewpoint.

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included James Bond, Lord of the Rings and 'fairy' themes. It is doubtful that these people have recognised the seriousness of the commitment.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Access to the general public is a reflection of the public nature of marriage and hence members of the public should be able to go to the ceremonies. Allowing a ceremony to be conducted in private creates a false impression of the public nature of marriage. Public marriage (and public access) also provides protection against false or sham marriages which is still a problem in our society.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn and dignified occasion. Allowing ceremonies to potentially take place anywhere undermines this dignity. There may be occasions when churches do not have suitable facilities and certain approved (by government) buildings may be good alternatives. However, there have been unapproved wedding ceremonies in underwater facilities, in an S & M dungeon and at a Comic Book convention. These locations do not provide dignity and solemnity to this serious occasion.

Please share your views below:

Having a wedding ceremony in the air does not seem safe and dignified. If this is approved then it appears that the anything goes motto would prevail.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The definitions for safe and dignified have not been made clear and are very much open to individual interpretation.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must always be witnesses for the protection of the individuals to stop force or sham marriages.

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFY5-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:31:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Marriage Foundation (reg charity No1150453). [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Response on behalf of an organisation

If other, please state::

Please select state...

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

legally married

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Much to open to fraud , duress and other unlawful pressures. Only in person interviews are safe. Since almost all sham/forced marriages stem from muslim sources such a distinction will lead to allegations (wrong but toxic) that this provision is in fact unintentionally racist and so discriminatory. Every couple should be interviewed in person

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

It should be possible .

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Public display nowadays means "online".

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Substitution needs close monitoring as it is easily open to abuse. See below

### Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Easily open to abuse and last minute "sudden illness/ unavoidable delay". Those who would like to eg. conduct a forced marriage will use this as a loophole to last minute substitution of undesirable officiant.

Please share your views below:

Substitutes should be closely scrutinised.

### Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The new process is very easy and simple and quick. The fewer exceptions the better it wil work

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Irrelevant in practise and so unnecessarily complicating.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

We agree. Simple and nowadays most useful and easy to identify.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

They should carry out these checks as the clergy might well not have any or any real knowledge of the candidates.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both should attend and make separate declarations . In the majoirty of cases this will involve no added hardship as the candidates will make simple arrangements direct with the vicar.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

keep it simple and universal

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is key and central to the new process.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is again an area requiring proper monitoring and scrutiny to avoid fraud/abuse but we think it is in principle the correct system.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Impossible to be too prescriptive and this is a sensible definition avoiding the lunatic fringe.

Please share your views below:

There should be a system for registering appropriate organisations after application by them ( cf the charity commissioners who scrutinise organisations to see if they are compliant with charitable objects etc before registration). No other list is required except, administratively, to help potential organisations to avoid wasting their own time.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A necessary and appropriate minimum requirement.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes such organisations should in principle be excluded but the devil will be in the detail . eg is an organisation which objects to same sex marriage "unlawful" (like most churches) ? And how on earth, nowadays, do you define "morality"??

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Because of the risk of abuse and in the interest of simplicity, only individuals not officers should be capable of nomination per se. The fact that an individual is the officer of an organisation should be a factor in acceptance for the role of officiant.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very sensible and simplifying

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Suitably inclusive and simple.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A sensible preliminary to registration but registration should be a careful process as it is key to the ordered expansion of the categories of people who are capable to perform the weddings

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Excellent monitoring in theory but cumbersome and expensive so far as continuing professional development is concerned and not necessary for eg vicars etc.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Avoids conflicts of interest and so undermining their vital scrutineering role.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a simple and low rate for the actual wedding performance regardless. However this will not stop abuse as money will be paid illegally to ensure cooperation in the dodgy cases, Unavoidable in practise.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We do not understand the objection in principle to double nomination.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Too important to be trivialised but this can be avoided by careful registration processes which is the key to the new expansions proposed.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it as universal as possible

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most likely to be the best people on the ground to keep tabs on their nominees.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obvious and sensible fall back

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No need for time limit

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If it is enacted (see above) it is a good policing /enforcement measure.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We agree with these minimum requirements re consent. This is at the very heart of marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

self evidently

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These organisations should be able to impose extra extra requirements but not remove the basic ones required by law, obviously.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Prayer and praise should be allowed as allowed by the officiant. A tricky area to define in the more extreme cases.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What couples do after they have been civilly married is up to them as long as it cannot affect the legal status of the marriage already performed.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is enough pre marriage scrutiny in the new measures so this is no longer necessary.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not? It is a brilliant opening up of the process to all. Location is no business of the state if the other formalities are adhered to .

Please share your views below:

No limit other than that imposed by the location itself for eg. safety reasons.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

no reason for this to continue, see above.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Location is irrelevant and restrictive. The ceremony and the officiant is what matters. These provisiosn are unnecessary and potentially a minefield of complexity. What is a religious as opposed to a non religious venue?? Simplicity rules OK!

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not needed

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Safety is covered by the ordinary law and dignity is in the eye of the beholder. Too much of a burden for the officiant who is not forced to take part if he does not approve for any reason.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above. Not necessary. Is he/she to become an unofficial fire officer.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Location is unimportant so far as the state is concerned.

Please share your views below:

Dont agree.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

We prefer that completion should take place no later than the date of the wedding to avoid fraud

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a necessary modernisation

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Ok but not sure about failure to Register which seems fundamental to the new process

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Simple and better than existing regime

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Far too vague in todays environment where cohabitation no longer signifies anything

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This protects the forcibly married.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to understand the seriousness of their role and this underlines it

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Given that we consider the location of the wedding should be irrelevant provided the other formalities are complied with we consider the new law should not differentiate.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see above- no differentiations

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

simple and easy

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

sensible additional protection for the terminally ill

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Hospital or housebound yes, prison no. The end of a stay in prison is very predictable and wedding arrangements can be made to fit with the release date.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This question is unclear/ ambiguous but we basically agree providing this only applies to these very limited national emergency occasions.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are unhappy about the blanket provision covering everyone as there would be much opportunity for abuse and forced marriage but hard to see how the law could be framed without seeming to be discriminatory.

No

Please expand on your answer:

We are not sure the distinction is clear enough. Very simple and clear medical evidence is the key to clarity whatever the final definition

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consistent with other reforms re location

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consistent with other reforms

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Any ocean going UK registered ship is surely fine if the other formalities are met.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:



The role and so name of the officiant is key and should be notified in advance. Any company providing this service will understand the need for advance notice to potential partners and will make the necessary arrangements to ensure the identity is known in good time.

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

part of the reforms

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a necessary precaution in the circs.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No knowledge but probably so if it is allowed.

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be sent in the first place electronically by scan and then in hard copy on return.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but capable of being waived at the discretion of the officer for reasons of exceptional financial hardship

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

with discretion to waive , see above.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

a well understood process and a good route to inexpensive weddings which is a highly desirable objective.

Consultation Question 78:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above re vetting of locations. This is an unnecessary intrusion into the vetting process

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Unnecessary, see above

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Obviously fair and necessary

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

entirely logical

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

The terminally ill are not necessarily impecunious. Discretionary provisions would be fairest ; see above

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not??

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

We have research which indicates that the cost of weddings is, inter alia, a deterrent to marriage and that this affects the less well off far more than the better off. There is an increasing gap between the better off who marry, as they always have, and the less well off who increasingly don't. This is highly undesirable as marriage leads to far greater family stability which is in the national interest and the profound interest of children's development. Please see all our research on this whole area available at [www.marriagefoundation.org.uk](http://www.marriagefoundation.org.uk). The current law contributes to this myth.

We are strongly in favour of your excellent and thoughtful proposed reforms (subject to the small points set out in the survey) because we believe they will promote a resurgence of interest and so participation in marriage which is very good for society. They will also encourage and promote inexpensive weddings. The current laws are wholly out of date and enacted in a different cultural context. They promote the image that marriage is expensive, only for the rich, outmoded and unnecessary "for us". We believe your reforms provide an opportunity to change the image by bringing weddings into the modern era and so make marriage a much more attractive social arrangement available at low cost to all.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

see above as to the deterrent effects of the current laws. Going forward we are not convinced about the need for premises to be approved and welcome the possibility of couples getting married where they want providing the officiant is agreeable to the plans and properly approved and registered.

We have covered the impact of cost as a deterrent and everything should be done to remove this barrier. Approving premises will drive up costs.

The retention of register office weddings is consistent with the civil partnerships scheme and should be retained as a well understood and experienced system for those who want simplicity and low cost.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Covered above . Location is irrelevant to the states involvement.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Nothing further to add.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

There is far to much investment by businesses in providing unnecessarily elaborate and so expensive weddings. This is very counter productive to the expanding of marriage back to the sector of the community who have largely given up on marriage.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No information

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The less the state is involved in providing oversight to couples who want to marry the better. Couples do not need local or national government involvement beyond ensuring everyone knows what they are doing and consents.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriage law has little impact on location for weddings. However UK divorce law brings people here .

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The general liberalisation of the marriage laws is likely to lead to more weddings here and abroad.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No information or views.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Save as above no information or views.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

See above. Greater competition in the weddings industry will drive down costs. The introduction of continuing professional development for registered officiants will be cost generating but not at a level which is unrecoverable from individual participants in the process. Reasonable fees at appropriate points will defray costs.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YDF6-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:43:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists UK

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

My husband and I were married by a Humanist celebrant in England where Humanist weddings are not legally recognised. We additionally had to have a civil marriage so as to become legally wed. Now as a Humanist celebrant myself I conduct weddings in England, again which are not legally recognised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As a celebrant I am explicit with couples that a Humanist wedding is not legally recognised in England and Wales.

No

Please expand on your answer:

In my experience the vast majority of couples who have a Humanist wedding, also make their union legal by additionally having a civil marriage. People choose to have humanist weddings because they identify with the beliefs of their celebrant and they want their ceremony to represent those beliefs.

Unfortunately some couples who would like to have a humanist ceremony cannot because they can only afford the expense of one ceremony, and they have to prioritise the civil wedding as this is legally recognised. This has happened with at least one of the couples I have been supporting.

Personally my husband and I didn't want to have a civil marriage, we considered our humanist ceremony to be our real wedding as it reflected our values. However we did want our marriage to be legally recognised, so we didn't have a choice but to have a register office wedding too.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The definition put forward does not state that the principle purpose of the organisation must be to advance its belief system. This means that commercial organisations will exploit the definition and will operate with a principle purpose of providing legally recognised marriages. This would undermine the state provision of civil marriages AND any genuine belief-based organisation providing new legal marriages.

The definition for religion/non-religious worldview should be more clearly set out, ie the beliefs of the organisation should have a certain level of seriousness, cohesion and importance, be worthy of respect in a democratic society, be compatible with human dignity and not conflict with the fundamental rights of others.

"Secular" is far too subjective a term to include without significant confusion.

The definition should rely on human rights case law as it related to non-religious beliefs, eg refer to Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This would bring marriage law in line with human rights law. It would limit the organisations authorised to conduct marriages to only those with intrinsically linked beliefs about marriage.

Please share your views below:

It would be better to ensure the legal definition of what constitutes a non-religious belief is specific and restrictive to make it genuinely reflective and useful. A stronger definition would by its nature exclude commercial operations wishing to exploit the new system.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These are incredibly insufficient qualifications and will be exploited by companies looking for commercial profit, at the expense of both state-provided civil marriages AND genuine belief-based organisations. This is a substantial risk, particularly when coupled with the proposals about profit and gain.

The problem with the commercialisation of marriage is that individuals would not need to meet any required standards of a reputable organisation or qualify under its training. They could simply join with others in a similar position (ie looking to run a business) and operate with unacceptably low standards.

Under these proposed qualifications any person could call themselves a "Christian celebrant" and join together with others to perform weddings - This would undermine genuine religious marriage. The same is true of people calling themselves "humanist celebrants". Members of the public would be confused by the lack of consistency, and would be open to exploitation by untrained, unqualified commercial operators who have no meaningful alignment to a religious or humanist worldview.

It is therefore essential to include a point under the criteria which states that in order to qualify, the organisation "must not be principally engaged in conducting marriages and/or training celebrants to conduct marriages". It would be prudent to require that the organisation has been in continuous existence for a minimum of ten years, has been performing non-legal marriages for at least five years and that it has procedures in place for discipline and de-accreditation of its celebrants. Finally a much higher minimum number of members (as in Australian law) would make the criteria stronger, eg 2,000 members.

A buildings-based system for deciding where marriages can legally take place, which we have currently, is useful for many religious groups who do meet in meaningful buildings. It is worth noting here that location is highly significant in humanist weddings, as humanists believe the meaning in life is something we create for ourselves, and maximising happiness is the greatest good. Therefore humanist couples should be able to have their humanist wedding in whatever location (with consent of course!) is most meaningful to them.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be liable to undermine the dignity and sincerity of marriage in England and Wales. It would be more similar to marriages in Las Vegas than anywhere in the UK or Europe.

Vital to me, many commercial celebrants already claim to be able to perform "humanist weddings" in spite of having received no training in how to do so, having no affiliation at all with a humanist organisation, and in fact acting purely as an "independent" (which is in fact a synonym for "commercial" in the context of marriage celebrants). Couples are therefore already being misled and disappointed, and this new proposal would exacerbate the situation further.

Any organisation which has proper procedures for selection, training, discipline and de-accreditation of its celebrants would also be impacted. Were a celebrant de-accredited by Humanists UK for example, they could set up as a commercial independent celebrant offering "humanist" ceremonies. This would undermine the procedures and the organisation's ability to maintain standards across the profession.

The impact on religious weddings would be the same, as again many commercial celebrants already offer "fully religious services" with NO affiliation to a religion and no training in place qualifying them.

The huge regulation and monitoring to ensure that this system is not exploited to the detriment of couples, is simply not warranted. There are no clear benefits to couples of allowing commercial independent operators to conduct legal marriages. The ONLY benefits would be to individuals profiting from the unsuitable marketing above ie "Christian celebrants", "humanist celebrants" who are in fact not trained or affiliated. The risks are too high, the problems too varied and the benefits are negligible at best.

For these reasons ceremonies conducted by commercial celebrants should not be given legal recognition. However, since the Law Commission is bound, by its terms of reference, to put forward a scheme by which commercial celebrants could gain legal recognition for their marriages, the Commission should stop short of recommending their scheme but

rather point out its problems.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Celebrants should charge a reasonable fee for their work, reflecting the time and effort put into crafting a humanist ceremony. This proposed rule works well in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It helps to prevent profiteering and exploitation of couples.

Current charges for humanist ceremonies do vary across England and Wales (reflecting different living costs ), and charges vary according to how much time is needed to prepare content for different types of ceremony. So a set figure probably cannot be too closely given. However guidance on how celebrants/officiants can comply with profit and gain rules would be extremely beneficial.

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal is far too vague.

It ignores the special role of civil marriage in England and Wales. This is to provide couples with a form of marriage which is completely unrelated to any religion or belief system. Registrars would be permitted to include content from their own religion, which could make couples feel incredibly uncomfortable.

Registrars should not be legally required to conduct services with religious content which is against their own beliefs. This could lead to employment law cases being brought.

The state should not get involved in performances of religion or belief. Neutrality in the context is fundamental so as to treat all people equally and avoid establishing one religion or belief over another. This is clear in human rights case law. Humanist marriages should be equally recognised with religious marriages, separate to civil (ie completely non-religious non-belief based, state provided) marriages.

Many religious groups do not wish the state to become involved in matters of faith. As a humanist I would be concerned if a state officiant claimed to include humanist elements in their marriage ceremony with no training in these aspects and no affinity with the belief system.

This proposal is further confused by the idea that commercial operators might be able to conduct legal marriages. I have stated concerns about this elsewhere. Basically commercial celebrants market themselves as being able to mix and match religious and humanist content, and this is a serious concern. They do this for reasons of profit and to extend their market. Couples are at risk of exploitation, disappointment and inaccurate advertisement.

Please share your views below:

If religious or humanist content is requested by the couple because it has cultural or sentimental associations, it might be permitted. It should be for the officiant/celebrant to decide if the couple's motivations are cultural/sentimental.

Examples:

- No act of worship should be included (eg reading of the lord's prayer)
- Hymn associated with sport team might be included (eg Jerusalem)

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

For humanist couples location is incredibly important. Humanist weddings are reflective of the couple's beliefs and what is important to them. It is therefore essential that they are able to choose a setting that is meaningful to them.

My husband and I chose to get married in a volunteer-run community theatre. The specific place is important to us, and although it had no marriage licence covering it, we were absolutely convinced it was the setting which would bring us most joy and reflect us as a couple.

Most couples get married only once in their lives and so the occasion should absolutely be in a place that they choose. The setting should be fitting for the significance of the rite of passage. What makes it fitting, is that the couple love it and have chosen it because it is perfectly suited to their circumstance.

This is so closely linked with a humanist way of life - Humanists proactively weigh up what is right for them. Humanists choose how to live their lives based on science, reason, kindness, empathy and ultimately make an individual choice in all they do. The place that they get married is no different and should be individually chosen.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

All of these places could be appropriate settings, provided that health and safety can be assured, and that the dignity of marriage can be maintained. Weddings on water or in the air might not always be suitable, the motives of the couple should be assessed in making a decision on this. That is, the officiant could ask the question "Is this location meaningful to the couple? Or has it been chosen for some other inappropriate reason?"

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Costs to couples would be greatly reduced if they could have meaningful ceremonies which are also legal. They would no longer have to have a separate civil ceremony with all the associated costs of two events.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9C-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:46:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that this is an additional safeguard against forced marriages.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I think that there should definitely be a face-to-face contact at some point prior to the wedding.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Seven days I think is the minimum, but longer would be preferable.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is agreed.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This is agreed.

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

These seem to me to be important safeguards, and also immensely helpful to the clergy.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I agree.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think that this would be helpful not just as a safeguard but also as guidance to people considering such a wedding.

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is very much agreed.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There also needs to be clear guidance as to the nature of "dignity and solemnity", both as a safeguard and also to help the officiant. The responsibility should cover all aspects of the ceremony, including venue, tone and content. The officiant should not feel pressured to give way to a couple's wishes if he does not feel that there is sufficient dignity and solemnity in the service (the next question does seem to cover these caveats).

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

(On the condition laid out by Question 38 below).

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The public declarations that exist are very important both to couples and to those around them, and are a fundamental part of the marriage service. Having the statements made at the ceremony itself is another important safeguard.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding service goes beyond an individual couple's wishes. It is a time-honoured ceremony which upholds the legal and human commitment and solemnity, gives weight to the vows and is at the root of why people decide on marriage rather than another form of commitment. There is already considerable flexibility within services including choices of wording and music and the existing forms are an additional safeguard to the dignity of a ceremony. It is about a legal and in many cases religious commitment and honour, and not about personalisation, and should endure beyond any individual choices.

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is because I consider it an important safeguard, and also because, as with the importance of the public declarations in the marriage ceremony, it highlights the public nature of a marriage service and the importance of declaring the commitment in the presence of others.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this could seriously undermine the solemnity as well as the safety of the ceremony, and it personalises this important ceremony far beyond what should be fundamental.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

I agree that there should be stipulations as to what does not constitute a solemn, dignified and safe venue, as well as what does.

This is a very personal view, but I feel that we are so fortunate to have a wonderful, meaningful marriage ceremony and the themed weddings that take place in Las Vegas for example, or the funny weddings that we sometimes laugh at on comedy shows (Vicar of Dibley!) just don't seem to be who we are or want to be. It is important to realise that any "opening up" seems to make things crumble very quickly, so that a service that is so very important and fundamental to many couples, and a sacrament to many religions, would be undermined for them. There needs to be a very clear bar, a standard of solemn and dignified, that will need meeting.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This goes back to the views expressed about the public and open nature of marriage and the importance to others of being able to attend a ceremony.

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But, as mentioned in previous answers, they should have very clear guidance as to what constitutes safe and dignified, and support in upholding that in event of pressure, and there should be some formal restrictions, which is what the question below seems to confirm.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration



Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVM-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:47:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Enter the name of your organisation:

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Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Yes, in-person interviews are important where there are any concerns about sham or forced marriages

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes. It should continue to be possible

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I agree that it should continue to be publicly displayed online and only where it is absolutely clear that there is a risk of serious harm by displaying it should this not take place. To allow it on the grounds as currently worded would make it too easy to keep this quiet and one of the purposes of a marriage is that it is a public commitment to one another.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Seems good in principle that they should

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If religious ceremonies are still to be allowed it would be too demanding to require every church or mosque etc to have a registration officer and so civil registration officers should still be able to officiate at religious weddings as well.

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

NO! - public policy and morality are constantly changing and this would too easily become a mechanism to punish those organisations who disagree with the latest moral view being pushed and too hastily agreed by legislators. It makes it too easy for government to become discriminatory. It should focus on those organisations that actively promote illegal behaviour such as violent overthrow of properly constituted government

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why would there be any benefit to this proposal? If there are sufficient official registrars that uphold the law and ensure that the necessary obligations are fulfilled, this is not necessary. There is a danger that if independent officiants are appointed they would not take the solemn nature of marriage seriously

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That is much too open to abuse and widening/loosening the proper nature of marriage

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But other questions and proposals appear to be undermining the dignity and solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That would allow such a broad range of ideas that marriage would cease to be an ordered, solemn, dignified and recognisable state



Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They should be doing that anyway and not leaving it up to other disparate bodies

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to do away with the prescribed words and therefore marriage becomes whatever the couple choose it to mean. This undermines the seriousness and solemn commitments which undergird marriage and potentially trivialises not only the wedding ceremony but marriage itself.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That makes marriage meaningless and it loses all sense of being able to be defined publicly.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to be a denial of religious freedom. Why should a religious service be denied after a civil wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The purpose of 'open doors' is that marriage is a public act and not just a private arrangement.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This makes it far too easy and likely that weddings will be trivialised and remove the sense of dignity and solemnity spoken of elsewhere in this consultation

Please share your views below:

It should not be somewhere that precludes the public being able to witness at least the prescribed elements and vows

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not a matter for Government to legislate on such matters

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The registrar should be given suitable training and guidance to determine what locations meet the requirements and not left to the personal preferences of individuals

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for the officiant to agree if there are already pre-approved locations

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

That appears to allow frivolous and incorrect assignation by the parties as to who the parents are

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be witnesses

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There is no significant impediment to marriage from the legal costs of getting married so this is irrelevant to the changes proposed

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNH-T

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:54:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

Please select region, state or province

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

My marriage is recognised in law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that couple have been seriously planning their intention to wed. 7 days is not long to make sure it has been considered more carefully.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the interview takes place prior to the marriage.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some time of reflection after the interview, prior to the wedding.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

'In person' needs to be the standard.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

There is no need to change this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should help protect those at risk from an unwittingly bigamous marriage.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is safer to ensure banns are published in the church where the wedding is to take place.

Consultation Question 14:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Helpful safeguards against forced or illegal marriages.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

How would this be useful - it would need some legislative penalty for false statements.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious lifelong commitment and needs to be recorded as such.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If the marriage is a civil wedding, no other officiants are necessary besides a qualified registration officer.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of a Anglican wedding, only one officiant is needed.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No need to change this.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is safer and more substantial recognition of the commitment to retain the current limitations for a civil or Anglican registrar to be present.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should possible for a 'religious' or 'non-religious' ceremony to take place. But the actual commitment and legal recognition of the marriage must take place before a qualified local civil registrar. This is a safeguard not only for the solemnity of the marriage but also for the protection of vulnerable participants - e.g. in forced marriages.

Please share your views below:

The wedding 'ceremony' can be separated from the official, legal commitment as happens now, or take place at the same time, but the legal, binding commitment should be officiated by a civil or anglican registrar.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

There is a difference between promotion of of purposes that are unlawful, and those which are not in agreement with public policy or morality. The latter shifts according to the pervading majority opinion and many people disagree over which is absolutely morally unacceptable.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a legally, publicly qualified office for registration of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Who and how is 'fit and proper' going to be defined?

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Fit and proper' should also be publicly accountable - not independent.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But see above.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No independent officiants please.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No independents please.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How are 'dignity' and 'solemnity' to be defined? What does that mean in practice?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely essential.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be the present civil and Anglican authorities.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above.

Consultation Question 39:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to express a public declaration of legitimacy to marry at the time of the commitment, not just during 'preliminaries'.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant will need to see constraints to ensure that the marriage is solemn and dignified

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason why there cannot be a combined ceremony which includes a (non-Anglican) religious or non-religious service, provided all the actual legal commitments of the civil registration are carried out at the same time.

Please share your views below:

Commitments are primarily made before God in religious ceremonies, but the State is present to ensure it is a matter of public record for which the participants will be legally accountable. There is no problem in including both forms of content.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sometimes people prefer to separate the legal/State requirement from the religious service. The only difficulty is that the legal date of the wedding is different from the ceremonial date. It should be possible to nominate a legally-recognised substitute date (the ceremonial one) for all subsequent purposes.

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is sufficient that there are a civil/anglican registrars and recorded witnesses to the event. The risk of a malicious gatecrash is potentially higher.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a need to preserve dignity and solemnity for the occasion.

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

Is it necessary to commit to marriage on a plane? Can't they wait till they land?!

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again - as above the officiant and recorded witnesses are sufficient to verify the commitment.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Yes

No

Please expand on your answer:

No religious organisation should be compelled by law to have weddings take place on their premises which are contrary to their own beliefs and practice about the purposes and participants of marriage.

If a secular venue is used, it may be for a religious or non-religious (including civil) commitment to take place.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only if they meet strict criteria set down for dignity and solemnity -e.g. that the participants have sufficient time, peace and quiet for the commitments to undertaken with due thought, care and attention. Not in the middle of a theme park ride, or on a high speed jet ski, or in the midst of a nightclub's loud music for example!

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely necessary and protects the officiants where there is conflict of opinions with the participants.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Like preliminary risk assessments, these can simplify the process for arrangements.

Please share your views below:

Local registry offices should approve applications from premises.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs a lot more careful thought. Getting participants to physically sign is visibly binding, but how does electronic registration work?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of point 4, there are transgender issues to include too.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The presence of verifiable witnesses is key.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

And in 1b(ii), there are issues for transgender participants too.

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a difficult one to prove even in the case of a marriage of 'convenience',

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We have to decide what constitutes true marriage and the attendant responsibilities for which parties are accountable. The best way to do this is to make sure that a publicly recognised commitment is undertaken.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be the case in a forced marriage that one party is unable or afraid to make their case until some years later.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is still a public, legal commitment.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't understand the difference here. Is this a plan to merge civil partnerships and marriage into one form of commitment? Some people may be in a civil partnership for legal safeguards of their partner, but do not see themselves as married. I am in favour of extending civil partnerships to enable

non-sexual partnerships to have legal protections. e.g. two sisters sharing a house.

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should they be less respected?

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There's too much latitude and variation here to answer in one box

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to dignity and solemnity criteria above.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

The ship must be of a large enough capacity, but otherwise it should be subject to the same dignity and solemnity criteria as, say, a private home.

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be a civil registrar.

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Retain 1 only.

No

Please expand on your answer:

They need to to be subject to the same rules as civil registrars.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Or a civil registrar from a UK registry office. Not independent.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

There should be the same allowance as on land.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may take some time to be able to do this practically.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If illness or detention is the reason, then a compassionate below-cost fee should apply.

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

This appears otherwise to be a harsh penalty for someone who is seriously ill.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why change this when it may be the simplest, least-cost option for some?

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not if a frequently used venue has already been passed for use as a location in general.  
Private homes and gardens should not attract more than a minimal fee.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have already said this should not then attract an additional fee for every use.

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



It should be equivalent to travel costs only, including travel time charged at a 'retainer' fee appropriate to the fact that no professional service is being performed during the travel itself.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Is this now calling for an overhaul of costs to register births and deaths too? We need detail here.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the same fee, whether it takes place in the registry office or elsewhere.

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only qualified registry office and Anglican officiants should be used.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The real driver to increase the number of legal marriages is to show that legal verification of a marriage commitment is central to recognition of the union, and the other protections and safeguards provided, especially in regard to any potential future breakdown of the marriage.

Other than that, present law is not the problem - it is the lack of willingness to make a personal lifelong commitment which has been established through a very individualistic, self-centred, hedonist and short-sighted ideology prevalent in our post-modern society.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

These are not the big cost drivers - many seem to spend more time and money planning for their 'one day in the limelight, rather than for the lifetime's commitment needed to build a lasting marriage.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

This should not be an excuse to make marriage a higher revenue generator for a local authority.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFVS-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:55:36

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It will help marriage not be conducted on a whim if the requirement to be registered for a minimum of 7 days remains

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

` No Banns should be published in the home parishes of each of those getting married so that due notice can be given.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

The should have the power and be required to meet.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

YES.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think the couple should be happy expressing there are no impediments to being married publicly even if that has been a part of the preliminaries. The nature of the wedding ceremony is very important. Changing the detail of the key words that may be said will affect the solemnity and seriousness with which couple commit to one another and the regard in which marriage is held.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a lifetime commitment. To allow a couple to come up with any form of words they like and for those to only need the OK of the registrar would be to diminish the serious and solemnity of the commitment being made and damage the very marriage the couple are about to enter. Serious thought and care has gone into what the set words mean and the form in which they are said. To unlink the act of marriage from the serious and weighty promises that are said would be to damage the very institution for the sake of trendy convenience. Please leave the core marriage vows alone. There is ample flexibility in them already and the couple can add more to them

A wedding is not just about the couple getting married. It is about all those witnessing their promise and all those who are already married or going to be married. To render the vows as a personal commitment said in the way the couple want to say it would be to unlink their marriage from marriages that have gone before and will follow.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple are making binding vows not just before friends but in the society in which they come. Those vows therefore need to be open to the society to be able to hear. Forced marriage is still a very real issue even in the UK.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marrying someone is not a light thing. There are careful provisions for which places receive a license to be wedding venues. To allow couples to get married in public convenience or at a fast food restaurant for instance is foolish and degrades and diminishes the seriousness of what is happening.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

No

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

On what criteria are officiants going to make their decision.? Better to have a central body guaranteeing dignified and safe environments.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In whose eyes is something considered dignified? The criteria for dignified needs careful spelling out.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Surely we have perfectly good systems for deciding the above already and delegating it to the officiant opens the doors to lots of undignified and even unsafe venues.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF7E-Z

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:56:08

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Private individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in person interview is obviously more personal and it would be easier to assess, in person, if there was a possibility of coercion or lack of consent.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Although not sure how it would be possible to know if either of the couple was exposed to harm online?

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot see the reason for this.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes I believe the first point is a good idea although I think the couple should be seen together unless there is evidence of coercion.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes I think this is a necessary safeguard.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is interesting to note that the idea of consent is being raised in many of these questions.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many Churches rely on civil registrars to register weddings, as they do not have their own authorised person. It is sometimes impractical for a Church to have an authorised person either because the Church is too small or does not have a minister. If a couple wishes to marry in such a Church they are likely to require an additional civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

2. This is too vague

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

I believe that the statement “contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment needing more debate. It could exclude those who hold unpopular, but perfectly legal, views from nominating officiants; a need here for objective criteria such as the promotion of terrorism or the undermining of the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Opening up a market for independent officiants makes wedding vows a commercial concern which could increase the costs of a wedding venue. Another result of this could be that there is a danger that the celebrant would not restrict what could be included in the wedding ceremony and so the ceremony would lose any sense of seriousness. Not clear what training or safeguarding would be required.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer for question 29

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But feel some of the proposals mitigate against this.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Training would be essential

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be under the umbrella of the General Register Office. We do not need deregulation in this area.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned that not having some form of prescribed wording in the ceremony will undermine the seriousness of marriage. It could relegate the wedding ceremony to a certificate from the govt. It should not undermine the seriousness of the promises made.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is more important that a legal wedding ceremony reflects the seriousness of the commitment the parties are making. After all it is a small but important aspect of the ceremony and the rest of the wedding can easily be personalised. Allowing a totally personalised ceremony could easily trivalise marriage. I believe we should strengthen marriage not undermine it given the numbers of broken marriages in our society. If young people are given the impression that it doesn't much matter any more than any other party they may have then it gives a poor message in my humble opinion.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There are prescribed words for religious wedding so they are not personalised in the same way as noted in question 43

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this completely. I would like to read a passage from the Bible on love at my daughter's civil wedding but am not allowed under current rules and cannot see any rationale for this.

Please share your views below:

Readings from the Bible or other sacred texts linked to marriage/ love/ commitment and songs/hymns to form a part of the ceremony so if one of the couple had a religious faith and the other didn't this could form an acceptable compromise.

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure/ don't know

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a valuable part of the celebrations as it shows the wedding is not just a private affair. Whereas if doors are shut it says the opposite that it is a private affair only. Keeping open doors could also be a safeguard against a forced marriage - a last resort maybe but valuable none the less.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not wishing to say yes or no here as there are obvious advantages to being able to marry at a place of a couple's choosing. However there are a few points of concern here.

- 1.By removing all restrictions this could open the door to inappropriate venues being used such as the example of a sadomasochism dungeon.
2. The setting should not trivialize the ceremony or detract from the seriousness of the wedding ceremony and promises being made.
3. The consultation states that venues would need to be 'dignified' and 'safe', it is unclear what safeguards there will be in place to protect the dignity of the ceremony.

in the air, and/or

Please share your views below:

See views above with regard to the seriousness of the ceremony. Practical circumstances could detract from the ceremony in above locations.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

More definition of these terms is required.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Witnesses and signatures are of importance.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I am not a law practitioner so this is only a personal opinion. I do not believe the current law discourages people from getting married. I cannot see that the proposals set out here will have much effect other than maybe to trivialize marriage.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKR-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:56:15

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

individual

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHK-Q

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 16:58:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Self

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in 40 year marriage by law

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious undertaking and should not be taken on a whim

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Serious thought should be a requirement in making such a commitment

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews in person with both parties essential

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would prevent bigamy or forced marriage

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please share your views below:

What other circumstance are you suggesting

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Publish the banns in an alternative church

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. Banns should continue to be read as is the legal requirement now

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Clergy should meet the couple together

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes. They are making a combined commitment before God

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

The present arrangements have been satisfactory why change them

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Non religious organisations should not be allowed to officiate at weddings

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Please share your views below:

Only religious belief organisations should be allowed to officiate at weddings

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No for above reasons

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No if this is not necessary at the present

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have already stated my views

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

,

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity of the ceremony should be paramount

Please share your views below:

No. Marriage is a serious step in life and should be dignified and meaningful

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

With reservations, to uphold the seriousness of the commitment

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The General Registers Office

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Three nos

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No marriage can be legal with 'a person acting as an officiant'

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage should only be considered when both parties have consented to all that marriage includes

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't call it marriage. It is a civil partnership

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why not the name of the officiate

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF92-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:06:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a Methodist Church by an Authorised person

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Because marriage is a serious ceremony and the requirement is to safeguard that by giving opportunity to others to object on proper grounds in law

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement to personally attend in the first instance was relatively recently strengthened by making the couple see the registrar individually to ascertain that this was not a sham wedding. For instance to gain British Citizenship

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

I am happy with the current one month

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

What if that is the case but no concerns arise?

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The local registry office is much more appropriate.

That's what it's therefor and there is plenty of things on line that for many are inaccessible.

This consultation was a case in point and difficult to find.

If you haven't got a link and you just go to the law commission website there is a bewildering cornucopia of information about many things making finding the specific thing like finding a needle in a haystack.

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No it should be published in the areas of both parties to the wedding

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently some churches are not in buildings they own and are not able to have the ceremony without the presence of a registrar

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No this is so loosely stated as to be a danger to organisations and churches that hold to the Bible's teachings and which is in line with the historic view of marriage and which may well be at odds with the prevailing paradigm.

There is always a danger of the state over stepping its role to force upon a minority the latest, pressure group and media supported ideas.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Though I think this whole move to make marriage a sort of nearly anything goes type of thing is another assault on the serious nature of marriage in Great Britain and is a backward step bound to lead to the undermining of the Marriage Covenant and therefore producing negative effects in society.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes consent is necessary and should be a central part of the ceremony in public as marriage is not some private informal arrangement.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a proper form of words as at present which should be said.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is not the state's role to dictate what can happen in for instance a Church service and what that service can and can't be. We regard the laws of Almighty God to take precedence in these matters.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As I have already expressed it is not a private matter so it's public nature is shown in this requirement

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and reference to what marriage is require a proper regard to the original institution of marriage so a due regard to the type of place where it can take place is important in this.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These things are not equal opposites.

Community Churches and house churches should be able to hire a public venue to conduct a religious wedding if necessary

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is so vague as definition as to be almost worthless

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The a general Registry Office  
It should be by application and inspection

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The witnesses are important on almost any serious legally recognised contract

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9Q-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:15:57

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in accordance with the Church of England's formularies, according to the Book of Common Prayer

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

n ot applicable, the marriage having taken place in August 1961

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Publication of Banns of Marriage was the normal form in 1961, and was instituted to require parties to the marriage to have a true and active link with the officiant; i.e. that he would be known to the two persons and be in a position to prepared them for the solemnity and meaning of the Service.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

seven days as a minimum

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In-person interviews to be compulsory, as stated above.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Better to publish in some form of public document, for the benefit of those not able to access on-line notifications

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

There is need for any officiant or substitute officiant to be one who is authorised by law so to act, so as to uphold the solemnity of the occasion and duty involved.

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns serve an important function. See above.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Agree.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes and Yes

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both should be present and make declarations.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important to remove any possibility that officiants are frivolous

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



That guidance needs to be appropriate to the dignity of the office

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There may be many reasons that a couple may wish to celebrate their wedding (not be wedded again) even if their wedding was conducted as a civil wedding; they may later come to experience a conversion or other religious experience which they wish to identify as enhancing their wedding experience earlier, e.g. they wish to celebrate the greater understanding of Marriage now that they have found God to be more important to them and to their marriage vows.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity of a wedding might be less so if open to the general public, assuming the possibility of persons not invited spoiling its solemnity.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Regarding the need for solemnity, a church or similar public building normally used for solemn occasions, should be limiting the place for the ceremony.

This would obviate use of inappropriate buildings.

However, open air weddings do take place already in certain circumstances, e.g. beside the sea on a beach; in such cases it might be required for signing registers to take place in the aforesaid public buildings or a church.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

See answer to the above question.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I consider this to be a very important question, ensuring that proper dignity is adhered to in all events by the very nature of marriage. This remains my view even with the Government's recent expansion of marriage to same-sex couples (with which I do not agree, as it happens). I consider myself entitled to state my own viewpoint, even when it does not agree with present law.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no particular opinion on this question.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think English should always be used, as well as Welsh in the case of a Welsh location.

Consultation Question 56:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No particular view, since it is not yet known how such electronic registration could be incorporated with a hard copy of some sort.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the sufferer lived beyond 12 months his/her marriage should not be deemed invalid.

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to there being a place or building appropriate for the ceremony., or at least for the signing of registration documents -e.g. a ship's room.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to comments above.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9K-8

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:19:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is paradoxical for the Law Commission to have a goal to make informal ceremonies meaningful in law whilst seemingly suggesting that religious ceremonies should stop being meaningfully recognised in law. Currently around half of churches rely on civil registrars to officiate ceremonies due to them having no 'authorised' person. It makes no sense to change this setup, muddying the waters and causing smaller churches to risk falling foul of the new marriage law due to unfamiliar procedure and paperwork.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

It is strange that such subjective wording is being used; i.e. "contrary to public policy or morality", as this can change over time and has the potential to exclude churches with unpopular but reasonable and legal points of view from nominating officiants. The criteria should be purely objective excluding organisations that take part in unlawful activities, support terrorism or plot to undermine our democracy or rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea to allow independent officiants should progress no further. At present registrars are trained state officials or religious representatives with strongly held beliefs on marriage. This assumption would be undermined by the decision to allow independent officiants. There are many 'fun' but not necessarily solemn or legally binding independently officiated 'marriage' ceremonies that would become legally binding if independent officiants were allowed. There is a dignity to marriage that is not readily demonstrated by two bungee jumping individuals throwing themselves off a bridge during a ceremony for example.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Prescribed words are important to give meaning to the ceremony. Distilling the ceremony down to a basic declaration of consent being given by both parties does not give any structure or public clarity to what the individuals are actually consenting to. The prescribed words are a small but important part of the ceremony and could be easily included at some point in proceedings. Marriage is all about promises and commitment and yet the proposals could lead to ceremonies with few or no words. This risks making the point of the ceremony and promises said or knowingly unsaid in private virtually meaningless and will undoubtedly mean that the institution is taken very much less seriously with far reaching consequences for family cohesion and children.

Marriage is a public declaration and should have BOTH a verbal AND signed element to the declaration. In addition, there should be opportunity for the public to bring impediments to the proceedings right up to the point of legal/verbal declaration as it is important for everyone to know if one of the parties has not been truthful or is living a double life prior to the other party consenting to a life of marriage.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:



The personalisation of the ceremony need to be secondary to the seriousness of the commitments being entered into. Many independent officiants may be of the opinion that the fun, theme and activity elements of the ceremony are more important than the meaning, dignity and solemnity of marriage. However, this would be to the detriment of the standing of marriage in our culture and will affect the seriousness with which couples take their vows and promises they make.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not a private affair and the open door requirement is an indication that it is important to society in general. The requirement is an important safeguard against forced marriages, bigamy etc.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that the location is suitable, solemn and accessible for the general public. The requirement for the wedding party to be a PADI qualified scuba diver for example in order to attend an underwater ceremony would unfairly put up barriers to stop the elderly, family members or a member of the general public with an interest in attending. Wording used such as 'dignified' and 'safe' could be broadly interpreted and doesn't necessarily mean that the vows, promises and commitments are easily heard by those who for family, friendship or community reasons have a vested interest in hearing the ceremony in order to better support and encourage the couple going forwards.

While it would be advantageous for churches that meet in a shared community centre, for example, to be able to conduct marriage ceremonies, I am not convinced that no restrictions on venues is a good idea. It could logically be assumed that any building that is deemed suitable by the Charity Commission to house a 'church' is also suitable, dignified and safe to conduct a wedding ceremony. Beyond this it is not obvious that any such safeguards would be in place for other locations.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9J-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:25:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have been delighted to be a steward at two church weddings since the COVID-19 pandemic and although adhering strictly to the rules and guidelines they were both wonderful occasions to celebrate a man and woman being wed in God's sight and with blessing.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be some way of checking, if necessary, that the couple are bona fide and the relationship is genuine

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the same reason as above and there is no real reason to change current practice

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Current rule should remain

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There is no substitute for the couple being together and physically present at the interview.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I would prefer couples to be in the UK when notice is given otherwise fixed or sham marriages would be easier to carry out

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the proviso that those without internet access can still read in the local newspaper for example

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No, as it is at present that only if the officiant is unable to attend as a result of a disability preventing them attending

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is interfering with the right of the church to fully be engaged in a couple's decision to marry.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there is no harm in retaining this option

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

If the couple ( or at least one of them) is resident in the parish where the wedding is to take place then that is ok. But where both are out of the parish then the banns should also be read in the parish church's where they reside

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I believe that the minister of the church should have the right to continue to act in the best interests of the couple and if there are any concerns then the minister should have the right to ask for additional proof and to discuss with each person separately

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes - this is the basis of a couple who wish to wed making a separate declaration without any pressure from the other person

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

There is no doubt that church weddings should be allowed to continue as present

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

No just a list of those organisations who have applied and been accepted as bona fide for these purposes.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There are many small independent churches with less than 20 members who regularly meet

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Churches of the Christian faith should in all circumstances be allowed to carry on with marrying couples

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

there has to be the current rules adhered to

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely just as currently the case

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But ministers of Christian Churches, by the very nature of their appointed position should be considered automatically fit and proper - unless any have committed and been prosecuted for a criminal offence

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but there should be a responsibility in addition for the officiant to have a wider role to ensure that the solemnity and true purpose of the ceremony is maintained throughout

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not for Church weddings

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the proviso that church ministers who are acting in accordance with their christian conscience are not de authorised

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is not just about the couple! This whole ceremony must be dignified and full of integrity as a lifelong commitment to each other and must not be allowed to watered down to just a bit of fun. therefore specific phrases and commitments to each other must be expressed publicly and the couple must honour each other and to the formal union between them

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely not - this would water down this wonderful and much celebrated act of commitment. The current formality, seriousness and solemnity must be maintained for the good of society as a whole

Consultation Question 44:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would open the door for "liberal" minded to make this a farce - keep the rules the same

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

none

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current practice to be maintained as the couple's choice in consultation with the minister of the church

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a public occasion and should remain so

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Makes a mockery of marriage

Please share your views below:

I do not believe that any of the above venues, unless in some circumstances the open air where the ceremony is dignified and solemnity is maintained, should be allowed

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No strong opinion

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Other

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Just common sense to maintain dignity and solemnity of a marriage ceremony

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Pressure is then on the officiate to agree to weird settings and this should not be the case

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure of the meaning of safe and dignified - surely this is an individual interpretation

Again only locations where the solemnity and true purpose of marriage can be maintained. To me this is just in a Christian church or for other faiths in their own building

No

Please expand on your answer:

as above

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No views

Please share your views below:

no views

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No reason to change the current rules which seem to work well and fair to all

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst all the 4 nations remain in the UK registration should take place in English

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Takes away from the current solemnity and seriousness of two people wishing to publicly commit to each other for the rest of their lives

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current rules to remain with the current protections

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current rules are fair and right

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage should only be recognised with a proper ceremony with proper regulations

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

there is a good reason for this to remain in place for protection

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No views but not in prisons

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current system seems to work

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why should there be any difference to healthy couples

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Prison marriages should not be allowed until both parties have served their sentence

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why change this other than to mess about with what is a lovely and most beautiful of occasions

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

i feel this is ridiculous and reduces the solemnity of marriage

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

why can't the couple wait until they are on land

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

as above

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

fair to all

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

It should be at a level where all can afford this payment

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems fair

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems fair

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems fair

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

Fair for all

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

seems fair

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Current law should be strengthened to promote marriage which is between two people who wish to share the rest of their lives together and the ceremony should be worthy of this with solemnity, seriousness and respect.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

A couple should not enter into marriage for a bit of fun and should be willing to save money in advance and plan out what should be the loveliest day of their lives together and commit to each other for life.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Current laws and regulations are satisfactory

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Seems to work fine at present so no other comment to make

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

I am against unregistered venues and the "business " side should not be considered for such an occasion

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I am happy with the current situation

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None really

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

terrible

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

terrible

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Current law seems ok to me

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No evidence except currently all seems to be ok

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

No real views except that this consultation must cost a lot of money and in my opinion totally unnecessary !

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKD-K

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:25:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

N/A

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There should always be an in-person interview to stop forced marriages taking place.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In addition the ceremony itself should be solemn and dignified.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples should be present and make a public declaration of their commitment to each other.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public declaration and should be taken seriously, not turned into a party joke!

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public, not private declaration of commitment.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious matter and should be treated as such.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Also we need to ensure that the location is in keeping with the serious nature and solemnity of marriage.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Silly options should be avoided.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKF-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:26:59

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

officiant ought to uphold the solemnity but this should naturally bleed into the participants too.

Could the minister be solemn and the participants be in wild frenzy? Obviously not, so holding high esteem of marriage is necessary for all parties involved.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

making arbitrary statements at a "ceremony" is whimsical and capricious. It redefines marriage as a meaningless activity, devoid of any sobriety and appropriate sacrifice.

Moreover, Marriage is of specific interest to the state as it often creates children! and these children will be living under its authority, so keeping it a "private" affair is counter intuitive to the states interests.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is post modern garbage. It is calling a stone a piece of bread.

Or analogously we could all be university graduates by drafting our own degrees and having a "graduation ceremony " which we autonomously defined.

If there is no objective criteria for a wedding ceremony, why limit this to only marriage. Lets consistently apply this to all of life.

I could be a GP simply cause I read medical journals and i think i have learned enough about anatomy. easy!

this idea you propose is asinine.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This idea removes the public nature of marriage. It is public and needs to remain that way

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

can they take place at 10 downing st?

or in buckingham palace?

or scotland yard?

No.

Marriage is a solem and sober practice, it needs thought and appropriate decorum.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

your safe and dignified meanings are not clear. you lack definition

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKJ-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:30:14

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Some churches rely on registration officers to oversee the signing of the register. This new rule would mean that they could not do this and therefore some people could not marry in a church.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This proposal sounds good but “contrary to public policy or morality” is too subjective an assessment. It would risk those with unpopular but entirely legal views being excluded from nominating officiants.

The test should focus on objective criteria. These could include promoting purposes that are illegal or support illegal activity (such as terrorism), that advocate the violent overthrow of democracy, or that undermine the rule of law.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People are trained to do this important job and it could 'open the door' to anyone being allowed to officiate a wedding ceremony. This will devalue the importance of this important ceremony and people could do silly and frivolous things.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding ceremony can be whatever a couple wants with regards to music, people, outfits, venue, day, time etc. However, to make the vows non verbal or to be silly or frivolous is very serious. Wedding vows should be made publicly and seriously and in front of witnesses. People need to realise how important these vows are as otherwise it will just become a 'tick box' exercise and a piece of paper from the Government authorising the marriage. The vows should have legally binding words and meaning attached to them.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding should be a public event in which anyone can come. Marriage should be a public thing for everyone to be proud of and to support and encourage the couple. If weddings are allowed to happen in secret then this will make forced marriages, bigamy and polygamy easier.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to all sorts of problems and again make the ceremony frivolous and silly. People could get married underwater or in the air and not be focusing on the vows and ceremonies. It could lead to safety issues as well.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKU-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:34:46

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

A UK citizen

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married in a church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

N/A

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It would safeguard 'abuse' of marriage ceremonies, particularly fraudulently

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

An in-person interview establishes / preserves the importance and solemnity of the marriage

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A member of any non-religious belief organisations should not be officiating at weddings.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If someone does not wish to have a religious based wedding, then the dignity and solemnity of the event (in the eyes of the law and country) should be held in a recognised setting, officiated by a recognised qualifies person.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See response to Q 24

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As it is a legal ceremony, the officiant should be responsible for upholding both the dignity and solemnity of the content of and the behaviour of all those taking part in the marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As all wedding ceremonies are more than just about the couple, and effect the community in which they live, as well as their family relations, it is important that there is a dignified ceremony using prescribed language/words. It is also important that specific phrases are used which clearly convey the freely given consent of both people (in person) to the wedding and to the lifelong commitment that they are entering into. This commitment should include 'promises'.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn dignified event, supported by the law of the land; there should be some minimum requirements about the ceremony to ensure that the event is dignified and symbolic of the important step that the two people are taking.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There can be circumstances when or where a religious wedding ceremony cannot be undertaken, where a civil/registry office ceremony does take place, and when the couple choose to have a less formal 'religious' wedding-type service event (not amounting to a formal wedding ceremony).

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings in the UK have been, and should continue to be PUBLIC events effecting the whole community.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignified status attached to a wedding ceremony needs to be reflected in the choice of venue, and be appropriate to the solemnity involved; churches and other faith-based buildings and registry offices continue to be the only venues that would meet this requirement. However, there should be some provision to facilitate weddings of those who might be in hospital at risk of death (rather than requiring evidence that the person is seriously ill and is unlikely to recover), or, in very limited circumstances, are housebound.

Please share your views below:

NONE of the above, but see above response.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

see response to Q 48

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above responses to Q 48, etc. The dignified status attached to a wedding ceremony needs to be reflected in the choice of venue, and be appropriate to the solemnity involved; churches and other faith-based buildings and registry offices continue to be the only venues that would meet this requirement.

### Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignified status attached to a wedding ceremony needs to be reflected in the choice of venue, and be appropriate to the solemnity involved; churches and other faith-based buildings and registry offices continue to be the only venues that would meet this requirement.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignified status attached to a wedding ceremony needs to be reflected in the choice of venue, and be appropriate to the solemnity involved; churches and other faith-based buildings and registry offices continue to be the only venues that would meet this requirement.

### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The dignified status attached to a wedding ceremony needs to be reflected in the choice of venue, and be appropriate to the solemnity involved; churches and other faith-based buildings and registry offices continue to be the only venues that would meet this requirement.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This option should not be abused, but have very strict caveats / conditions attached relating to special circumstances eg terminal health issues

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNF-R

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:35:22

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

None

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

It's not confidential.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a religious ceremony

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I believe in Christian marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It is a great shame that so many couples have put off their weddings during Covid 19. There is no need of a big reception or a big ceremony to be validly married.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This requirement helps to ensure the couple have some stability in their background.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as they later attend a separate in-person interview.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to question 4

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Neutral

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Will safeguard marriage

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Who the officiant is is not important provided he or she is legally empowered.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to q. 11

Please share your views below:

See answer to Q 11

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This shouldn't stop a wedding from taking place.

Consultation Question 14:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Neutral

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This is preferable but not essential.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both questions to safeguard the future of the marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both should make this declaration to safeguard the future of the marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

These preliminaries should suffice.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Church ministers should officiate at Church weddings

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other religious groups should have the same authority as vested in the Anglican church.

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To prevent abuse of the system

Please share your views below:

No comment

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If the organisation promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality, it should be excluded.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Neutral

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To prevent abuse of the system.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is essential

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Essential.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Profits should not be made from marriages.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too high fees can deter couples from marrying.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of marriage has been lost in recent years. It really needs to be promoted.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But they should not lay down the form of a religious ceremony.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But no cover up of people who fail to comply.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple must be present at the wedding ceremony or else it trivialises marriage. In addition the ceremony cannot be allowed to use whatever words the couple chooses. It's too solemn for that.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it. The couple must not just be allowed to choose their own words on such a solemn occasion but such words must be appropriate for such a significant event.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The religious groups will decide the form of service.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not have enough knowledge to answer this question.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public occasion. Anyone should be able to attend the ceremony but not of course the reception.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

To hold weddings 'Anywhere' reduces the solemnity of marriage. Anyway what do you mean by 'Anywhere' eg In a night club or in a swimming pool or at half time in a football or rugby match. It's far too loose.

Please share your views below:

To each of the above No, No, No , No.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In my view a wedding is a public occasion of great importance.

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a profound difference between a wedding conducted by a couple in a religious setting and a civil ceremony

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Neutral

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not be trivialised.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

In the case of civil weddings, the local council. In the case of religious weddings the appropriate denomination should be responsible.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation is not marriage.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Either a marriage is null or it is not - three years does not determine this.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Not enough knowledge to answer this.

Consultation Question 63:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why shouldn't terminally ill people get married if both parties give full consent.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No comment

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I cannot agree with these proposals above all proposal 3. Better the couple wait till after the national emergency than attend remotely with celebrant and witness also remote. It sounds like marriage by 'Zoom' which devalues the solemnity of true marriage.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to previous question.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with this but the couple, celebrant and witnesses must not be remote.

Consultation Question 68:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am afraid that this might lead to the trivialisation of marriage but I concede that in the case of serving naval personnel, this could be allowed in extenuating circumstances.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again it trivialises marriage.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

See answer to Q69

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I don't believe there is any demand but I am wary of any attempt to devalue marriage any further.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See above

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No hard view on this

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

No hard view

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if the housebound can afford it.

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Give the couple some extra joy.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I really hope your proposals would lead to an increase in the number of couples getting married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

To encourage marriage keep fees as low as is reasonably possible.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Anything which facilitates marriage should be encouraged.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Keep the cost of marrying as low as possible.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Marriage is not about making money or 'business opportunities'.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Whatever the cost promote marriage as opposed to cohabitation, it's better for the couple and for our country.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFK6-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:45:51

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In our Church, a local Church officer presides at the wedding but the civil wedding vows are used and an Authorised Person or Authorised Person (additional) attends to the legal requirements and ensures that the vows are correctly given.

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

While I agree with the proposed responsibility, there needs to be a clear definition of what constitutes "dignity" and "solemnity".

The proposed responsibility should involve a wider remit to ensure that the actual ceremony and what is included in the ceremony should uphold the "dignity" and "solemnity" of marriage.

The proposal needs more substance. It is too airy-fairy as outlined.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea that someone can get married by simply signing a schedule and not actually attending the ceremony is unacceptable. The ceremony should continue to require public declarations, not merely whatever they might like to say nor allowing them to say nothing. Public declarations are a fundamental part of the ceremony.

The proposal risks undermining the dignity and solemnity of marriage and of the ceremony. It also puts at risk the seriousness of the marriage commitment being made.

If couples want to add words of their own to those prescribed, then so be it. Surely, the few prescribed words should be retained in order to show that the couple both consent to a lifetime commitment. Marriage is a union entered into in the eyes of the law and of society. It is a public commitment, not a frivolous thing of the moment.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The dignity and solemnity of marriage and of the marriage ceremony are fundamental. Couples who enter into marriage are making a public declaration in which both the law and society are involved and must continued to be involved.

The officiant is there to conduct a dignified ceremony in which the seriousness of the marriage commitment is clearly understood. He is not the Master of Ceremonies at an entertainment event!

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement came into being hundreds of years ago to prevent forced marriage. Sadly, forced marriage continues to be a serious problem in society and so the removal of this requirement is unacceptable.

I again make the point that marriage is a dignified, serious public commitment entered into by both parties. It is not just a private matter.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Any change in the law must continue to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage and of the location of the ceremony. the marriage venue should be appropriate to the making of a serious, public commitment.

Please share your views below:

While a wider range of buildings than actual church buildings is acceptable, getting married in a burger bar, or in a hot air balloon basket, or in a boat sailing down the river is hardly dignified or safe. Private homes do not fit the need to marry in public with open doors.

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, we need more clarity on what constitutes a venue which meets the need for dignity or safety. These terms need to be fully detailed and proper safeguards must be specified.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But again, it is not only the officiant's duty but it must remain a legal requirement that the location is safe and dignified. The interests of all those attending the wedding must be considered as also the interests of the law and of society.

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKG-P

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:47:25

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I'm a Humanist Wedding Celebrant

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a legally recognised marriage. I am an accredited humanist celebrant, this means the couples I work with cannot have a legally recognised marriage from a purely humanist wedding

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Other

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:



The wedding we had was lovely but very restrictive. We could not include personalised elements that mattered to us. We opted for a civil ceremony.

We opted for a legal wedding as we wanted this security but had the option been open to have a humanist legally recognised marriage we would have chosen this.

For the couples I work with, they want to have a ceremony that reflects their non religious and humanist beliefs but are prevented from this being also legally recognised.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

If outdoor weddings were legally recognised, many more couples may have been able to begin their marriage this year. This would also have enabled more wedding industry suppliers to maintain their business.

Remote access to pre-wedding administration would also have enabled safer accessible practices.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This increases the accessibility of practice. It also maintains safeguards.

This enables easier access for individuals in full time work and also enables these steps to continue during social distancing

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I think this increases the accessibility again, especially to those in full time work or who would struggle to travel.

Reassuring that safeguards around sham marriages exist. However these decisions and concerns must not be based in discriminatory practices, thoughts or unconscious bias.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm not sure why this level of detail is needed. Especially in case of extraordinary circumstances on the day that might require a substitute officiant.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This provides a level playing field

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is religious privilege. Registration officers and other celebrants are trained and their suitability assessed.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Political parties

Those engaging in hate speech

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that monies charged should provide a fair wage for officiants, cover costs and then generate funds to be invested in community works, akin to social enterprise or non-profit work.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not to the detriment of free choice or by discriminating against non married cohabitating couples. Where marriage is freely chosen, the officiant should uphold its dignity.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only insofar as to ensure legality, equality and quality . Not to impose restrictions unnecessarily.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

There should be no limitations so long as a registered officiant is conducting the ceremony.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not to limit freedoms

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

For those individuals who are housebound, they are prevented from a legally recognised marriage that takes place at home which is the most accessible and safe venue for them.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would enable legally recognised marriage to continue in future pandemics.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

No

Please expand on your answer:



This limits diversity and inclusion of a wide spectrum of officiants

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I believe that if more couples were able to have a legally recognised marriage that truly reflected their non religious or Humanist views, more couples would choose to have a legally recognised marriage.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Allowing legally recognised marriage that occur in a wider range of locations. Would enable more couples to marry in a location that is financially accessible to them.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples who wish to have a humanist and or non religious weddings are forced to pay extra to have a separate legally recognised marriage.

This was a choice we were forced to make and had to choose a wedding that did not fully meet our beliefs but was legally recognised because we could not pay for two.

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGV-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:47:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

For the sake of certainty and consistency, in which the state has a legitimate interest, require all weddings to include prescribed words, but with flexibility as to the precise wording - preserving a version of the words of contract, along the lines of "I take you to be my spouse"; as per 6.51 and .52 of the consultation document.

You have recognised the need for a ceremony and express consent, but without such words providing a minimum of content, there is a lack of clarity about what is being agreed to and what it is all about. For traditions in which such words are not called for, such words would be merely complementary and need not take away the focus from the personally-meaningful part of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public event with great significance for the community and so the principle of "open doors" is important to maintain

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGZ-5

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:53:10

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

No organisation

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to make sure that the content and emphasis of the ceremony is not made irreverent or in any way not serious. The proposals need to be clear by what they mean by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The seriousness of the commitment should mean that both need to be present at the ceremony. It should not be allowed that they say anything they like. This could give way to completely undermining the seriousness of the marriage commitment. It has already become adaptable to suit what couples may wish to say. Therefore it isn't unreasonable that specific phrases are used by both parties to confirm that what they are entering into is a life long commitment.

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open doors protect those who may be forced into marriage against their will.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage ceremonies should not be in places that are inappropriate.

Please share your views below:

Weddings should not be allowed to take place if they are incompatible with the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there is a lack of clarity in how you test venues for their appropriateness.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There would need to be more stringent safeguards put in place in the guidance given from the General Register Office.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGN-S

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 17:57:50

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would mean that many churches and other religious venues, which at present can hold weddings in the presence of a civil registrar, would be excluded because they do not have an authorised person.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This sounds laudable but 'contrary to public policy or morality' is too vague and subjective, and risks excluding officials who hold perfectly legal but unpopular views.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing independent officiants would open the door for those who are not properly trained or who do not take marriage seriously.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The prescribed words are but a small part of a wedding ceremony but contain solemn promises made between the two parties. Without them a wedding ceremony could become virtually meaningless, in which no promises were made.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This full customising of weddings could further diminish the seriousness of the commitment that the parties are making to each other, and will encourage commercialisation, in which those willing to bow to the wishes of the couple will profit the most. Couples might want to blend together different elements from various faiths in a way that is offensive to people of those faiths.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No marriage is a private affair, but important to society as a whole. Open doors help to protect against bigamy and forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Inappropriate venues might be chosen which do not preserve the dignity, importance and solemnity of the occasion. If the Law Commission considers 'in the air' to be dignified and safe, it shows that the law could be interpreted far too broadly.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNC-N

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:08:24

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Retired

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A few days to cool off if the wedding is a spur of the moment whim.

Marriage is a social matter. Locality is a factor.

Consultation Question 5:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Better that notice should start at a first personal encounter with registration staff.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least 14 days except in truly exceptional circumstances.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

NOT keen on remote. But yes, interviewers should be able to raise concerns such as those indicated above.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if relevant evidence regarding status, abode etc is available.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure. Might expose a couple to abuse or worse if a 'difficult' or aggrieved third party (eg a former partner) has access to public information easily available online.

Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Six months should be more than enough.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not too sure.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

- yes, if Qu 11 gets a good yes majority

Please share your views below:

Probably all right

#### Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure, but inclined to retaining the system so as to indicate that calling banns has various uses. Also a small step in maintaining links between the 'four nations'.

#### Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You never know when they might come in useful again, sadly.

#### Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Preferably in the church where the marriage is to take place. But if this really isn't practical, calling them in another church of the same parish should be sufficient

#### Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

1. Yes.
2. Required...'Separately'? No. But Encouraged: Yes, if circumstances indicate it might be prudent to do so.

#### Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if this is reasonably practical.

#### Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, and Banns especially. The system is time honoured; it has valuable social and community aspects.

### Chapter 5: Officiants

#### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is highly important legally. It affects society, and and the State. A duly qualified officiant recognised by the State ensures due gravitas.

#### Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, it won't help anyone if we muddy the waters as between civil and religious weddings.

#### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

OK

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why change what ain't broke and is anyway a long enshrined custom consonant with the establishment of the Church of England and (previously) the Church in Wales?

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. Yes, but the State should retain the right to prevent both 'religious' and 'non-religious' organisations deemed to be frivolous or sinister from conducting weddings. There is religion and 'religion' and there is 'OK secular' and 'Not OK secular'. No problem with, say, ordinary decent secular, humanist or atheist organisations of course. But marriage must not be cheapened or subverted.

2. Proposed officiants must be registered by the State. Same reasons as before.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such a definition isn't tight enough. IT is much too 'nice'. Leaves the door open to some very weird and probably unwholesome possibilities.

Please share your views below:

Yes. And for reasons along the line of previous response.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. 20 is far too low. Try 250.

2. And sincerity? Some beliefs very sincerely held can be very odd. Others can be very pernicious.

Don't start nudging the door open to polygamy, either.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes. There should be express exclusion. See previous answers.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Yes, if they are deemed OK organisations.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the acceptability (to the State) of the general credentials of the organisations in question.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not unless they are duly examined by a competent panel for probity and appropriate ability. Real danger of too many glamorous but venal and possibly harmful cowboys.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the organisations themselves have legal accreditation as fit and proper organisations.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These requirement aren't nearly enough. They need to be demonstrably fit and worthy people in a much fuller sense - as you might hope for, say, in regard to a recognised church minister in good standing or an accredited and worthy representative of, say, the Humanist Association.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, very much so.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Very much NOT. Defend us from a cult of celebrity wedding celebrants, albeit local celebrities. Please: NO big business officiants, and NO showbiz officiants. Some Commissioners doubtless feel there's nothing wrong in making weddings more fun or more dramatic (albeit very much more expensive in many cases). But the dignity, not just of weddings, but of marriage, will be even more at risk that it already is in our society. A committed and continuing union in love and faithfulness for life, with full regard to the best care and support of children, needs to be kept well in sight, hard as it is to realise in all cases. The State will not serve the country well by letting ordinary people's to-die-for weddings become too expensive and allowing marriage standards slip further.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Very much concur. But, please, DON'T go for independent marriage officiants.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely. But the Commissioners will need to put decent flesh on those well-meant, easily said bones. And how do you police this desideratum?

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but duly courteous and practical guidance.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there should be some appeal procedure available against a nominating organisation.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But there should be some appeal procedure available against the GRO too.

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

But there should be some appeal procedure available against the GRO.

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Would suggest time-limited authorisation (for say two years) in the first instance, with authorisation being made permanent thereafter if all is well from an officiant's nominating organisation's point of view (and the GRO).

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Certainly not in the case of Christian weddings. See the BCP Solemnization of Matrimony priest's prologue: ...not by any to be entertained, nor taken in hand unadvisedly, lightly or wantonly...but reverently, discretely, advisedly and soberly...

Some degree of propriety and commonsense and safety should be observed.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Avoid letting weddings become contests in the bizarre or the frivolous. Not keen on in the air (or at the bottom of the English Channel).

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A little reluctantly, since sound marriages are a public good and should be encouraged as such.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Keep things clear and sensible.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of non-standard or surprising locations, the couple or the officiant should secure the goodwill of the GRO.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Someone certainly should

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Makes sense

Please share your views below:

Pass

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFK5-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:11:13

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples wanting to marry should have time to consider what they are planning to do. This delay helps them consider this serious step.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned about forced marriage. Giving notice in person should help restrain such practices.

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should not be done remotely for reasons around forced marriage. Anything other than in person could cover up faked sincerity.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Notices should be displayed on line and physically in public in the localities where the people concerned live, with the caveat about not if there is a risk of harm.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should be published where the wedding is to take place and in the nearest active Anglican church where both parties normally live. This is to prevent deception, as in the case of bigamy or involvement in other marital-type arrangements.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Both precautions seem sensible, to prevent deception and forced marriage.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This sounds sensible.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or

Please expand on your answer:

The authority of the Church of England should not be taken away by the State.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that places of worship that don't have their own Authorized Person may still hold weddings, using a Registration Officer to cover the legal points.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

This is too vague. Public policy and morality change over time. Exact criteria should be given which would lead to a ban on being able to conduct weddings.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The idea of independent officiants at weddings worries me. This could lead to all sorts of unsuitable people getting the position, and being commercially motivated to do so. All sorts of non-serious ceremonies might develop, despite the stated intention of the proposed legislation that weddings should be "serious".

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

All persons controlling marriage ceremonies should have this. But how can it be effectively enforced?

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is necessary that both parties to the marriage contract know what they are agreeing to, and the implications of the contract. They should also be able to declare they are free to enter into the contract, without similar commitments with other people. They need to be able to understand and to express their consent clearly. Just signing something is not enough. The existing prescribed words are just right. If people have trouble with them, they need greater preparation for the event, with the help of translators and other supporters. The marriage commitment ceremony should not be made lighter and less serious.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Getting married is not a personal matter. It is a matter that affects the community, and the nation in general. The processes around making such a serious commitment should be seriously conducted and able to stand up to public scrutiny. This personalisation proposal risks offending the community and society, and making marriage more like buying property than the important life event it is.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage commitment affects society in general and many people beyond those invited to participate in the event. Wedding ceremonies should continue to be open to the public. Problems arising, through unseemly behaviour for example, can always be dealt with through existing laws.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should continue to take place in licensed premises only, so that the location may be dignified, and the public may have the access I have argued for above. The number and type of premises should be kept limited so that people seeking to marry have to make some effort and prepare to enter it. The marriage commitment of the couple concerned affects society at large and the institution needs the approval and protection of that society. How else can we ensure that marriage is taken seriously and society respects the commitment the people concerned have made?

Please share your views below:

None of the above. Leave things as they are. As to outdoor venues, participants are less safe outdoors from those who object to the marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above, public access is essential.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9P-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:16:19

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Name:

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Personal response

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Telephone number:

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If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have had no experience of weddings during this time.

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One or other of the couple should be resident.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

How original notice is given is not hugely important.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Period of time is not as important as realising solemnity of agreement they are entering into.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be face to face in person or online. Perhaps with each person being interviewed separately if there is concern about forced marriage.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

This should continue to be possible. Marriage should not have to be unduly delayed if work takes people away.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Online publication is alright, but this should not prevent "live" display if that is requested.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

12 months is too long a period.

Consultation Question 11:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The place and significance of the ceremony is of more importance than the officiant. If the couple have a specific officiant they would like to conduct their ceremony that option should be available to them .

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes



Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be published where ceremony will take place.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

They could be published elsewhere as well.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This should be so for any wedding - not just Anglican

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Both of the couple should make separate declarations that there is no impediment to their marriage.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

This system has served well for many years I see no reason to change it. For couples who wish to have a church marriage there should be no requirement for civil preliminaries.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be officially registered.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Whoever officiates at a wedding the nature of the agreement that is being entered into is of vital importance and this must be passed on by officiant.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Those being married by such organisations should be members of them

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The law should exclude any organisation which promotes unlawful activity.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This would be appropriate.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be a public list of all registered officiants.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be appointed by their religious group or be local authority employees - as they are now - they should not be independent.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be independent officiants. All officiants must be held accountable by some authority other than their own.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be independent celebrants.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn undertaking and the officiant should make this clear to the the couple being married. The ceremony itself should reflect the nature of the commitment being made.

Any new legislation must clearly state what is meant by the "dignity" and "solemnity" of marriage. This must be reflected in the location, and content, of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Ceremonies must reflect the commitment being entered into, so guidance underling this should be issued to all officiants.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The original organisation should be approached in the first instance.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the officiant receives ongoing training to be sure they are still officiating within the current legislation.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consent should be given verbally - or in sign if verbal communication is not possible. The question regarding impediment or hindrance should still be asked so each party is publicly stating their desire to be married in the eyes of the law and their freedom to take on this responsibility.

Vows/commitments/declarations should be spoken as part of the ceremony - signing a document is not sufficient. This is a public declaration of this couples realisation of the seriousness of the commitment they are making in getting married. The wording used must be based on some basic legal

structure, as it is at present, as this is a legally binding ceremony and therefore cannot be left solely to the couple's own wishes.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a legally binding ceremony and therefore must abide by some legal guidelines as to content - as discussed in question 42 - and form . A wedding is a legal, public declaration of a couple's commitment to their relationship and the ceremony and celebration should reflect the the solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

They must still meet the legal requirements of all marriage ceremonies.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

A hymn or prayer should be allowed. If there is more than that it is probably no longer a civil ceremony.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple wishes to have a religious service after their civil ceremony they should be free to do so.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding ceremony is a public expression of a couple's commitment to a lifelong marriage. Removing the "open doors" nature of the ceremony risks taking away the public concern with the marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a solemn, legally binding agreement which should take place in an appropriate venue. This could be a community hall a local church uses for its services if they do not have their own building.

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

An outdoor venue may be suitable but the other suggestions here are not suitable. Allowing a ceremony anywhere is not appropriate for the solemnising of a legally binding marriage.

Consultation Question 49:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Civil wedding locations should be regularly available for the solemnization of civil marriages.

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As far as possible ceremonies should take place in venues which support the couples beliefs. If a suitable venue is unavailable eg religious/non-religious venue is too small, provision should be made for the ceremony to take place in a suitably sized venue.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In line with their legal duty to hold a dignified and solemn ceremony this could be the responsibility of the officiant.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Clarity needs to be given to as to what "safe and dignified" is as regards a suitable location for this solemn, legally binding, publicly recognised ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The legislation must include clear safeguards regarding venue to ensure any chosen location is suitable for the solemnisation of marriage.

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Pre-approval should be carried out by a national body to ensure consistency of suitable venues.  
A venue could registered and need to reapply for approval every 2 or 3 years.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Paper registration should continue so as individuals sign they are recognising the solemnity of the contract they have entered into.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should be witnessed and all necessary parties should sign

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Legal requirements must be met for a wedding to be legally recognised.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There must be extenuating circumstances for the couple not to have cohabited after the ceremony eg hospital treatment

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a solemn, legal contract and should not be presumed without the necessary legal requirements.

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a legal "contract" and should still meet certain requirements.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These powers must only be used in emergency situations.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be evidence of serious illness

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

only in emergency situations.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

any venues would already have been assessed.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:



Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGR-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:21:06

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public declarations are needed to show how serious is the commitment and wider society is involved in this, it isn't just between the couple. The ceremony already has a lot of flexibility.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony needs to be appropriate for the significance of the event. It's a public declaration and needs to reflect that marriage should be taken seriously. Any old form of ceremony just won't do.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Open doors' protects people against forced marriages and it should be kept. It also shows the public nature of the declaration.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Many settings are not appropriate. The seriousness of the commitment would be trivialised.

Please share your views below:

None of the above would be appropriate.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is too subjective on the part of the officiant, even with guidance.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFG7-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:21:12

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Name:

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be longer.

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Always allow a longer period for a couple to give them time to reflect on the huge decision they are making.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

In person interviews provide due care and attention for the couple.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

This makes sense.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This makes sense.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This makes sense.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

This makes sense.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course, that is the least one would expect from such an official. I would stress that you should define what you mean by 'dignity' and 'solemnity' of marriage so that the official understands precisely what is expected of him in such a responsible position.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely! I can't believe you have raised such a question.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No, this should rest with the General Register Office itself, which has overall responsibility. They should have a Register in place to keep track of all officiants, to ensure that correct procedures are carried out, otherwise any Tom, Dick, or Harry could appoint himself. Marriage must be treated as a serious commitment and the authority should act accordingly.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony. This seriously risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made. Besides, there is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. What possibly can be wrong with the prescribed words which are minimal. Surely it is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

Completely personalising their ceremony sends out the wrong signals to couples and would give a totally wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Why does everyone love to hear of an intended marriage? Because it is part of society and has been so for many centuries. What you suggest here is that marriage would become an entirely private matter which it certainly is not.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a non sensical question proposing that all weddings can take whatever form and ceremony the parties choose, if an officiant agrees. As outlined above in the previous answer to question 42, you are not taking into account the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. You are suggesting treating the wedding ceremony the same as the couple choosing what outfits they will wear or where they will have their reception held. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The “open doors” requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations and acts as a protection against forced marriage. The problem of forced marriage is still with us and removing the requirement would again encourage a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Anywhere? Really! Here again you are ignoring the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony. Legal weddings should take place in venues that are compatible with the dignity of marriage.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

You don't say how a wedding location would be tested as safe and dignified. What tests would be carried out and what standards would be set. The question is much too vague and impossible to answer without the necessary information.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFNQ-3

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:22:34

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married under the regulations of the Church of England

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Our daughter was married in August 2020. She lives [REDACTED]. Her Husband lived in separate accommodation [REDACTED]. Neither attended a CofE church but wanted to marry in a church of England in order to have the formality and solemnity and the wording of the

Church of England ceremony because it highlights the serious nature of the marriage contract as well as the commitments each is making to the other as well as being in the presence of witnesses who can both hold them but support them in keeping the promises made.

Thankfully, because of COVID, there did not need to be Banns which all takes time. It did mean (as I understand) a special licence with concomitant costs paid to the Diocesan Registrar which was a bit tiresome. Proving a link to a church was a little more problematic but not impossible. The costs of the local church we used did seem quite high and a possible barrier to marriage for some.

At another level the COVID limitations made the wedding much more intimate and memorable, Indeed we had two receptions by way of garden setting barbecues to enable more people to celebrate the marriage. Both were relaxed and informal events without the enormous pressure of large white weddings etc.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Given current mobility etc.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Whilst accepting that some emergency weddings may be needed - e.g. where one party has a terminal illness or maybe is unexpectedly called to work abroad etc., the main principle should be a longer period to reduce the risk of forced or convenience marriages to gain some privileges.

Also see my answer to Q9 about "searches". If there is only a minimum period then it will be insufficient to look into sham/forced/incapacitous weddings

Marriage is a contract with the intention that it be lifelong. No other significant contract is normally entered without full due diligence etc. As a retired lawyer I am familiar with the fall out that can come with a divorce. There should therefore be much more preparation to ensure that the parties are not just marrying out of emotion but that they are at the very least aware of the issues that can and some of which will almost inevitably will arise.

We do not allow people to drive without going through rigorous tests. The same should apply for marriage. The time period could therefore be weeks or months.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Agreed for the reasons given. This should be capable of revision if it is found that it is not working in practice.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes: no reason is given as to possible problems with this.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It reduces the risk of bigamy or forced marriage or marriage where one party lacks capacity.

There should be a search facility rather as there is with Grants of Probate so that a concerned parent or social worker etc. can be notified if and as soon as a notice is posted so that a marriage can be stopped rather than having to be unpicked later.

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I assume this is because the marriage laws in the other jurisdictions vary with those proposed for England & Wales: in which case I agree.

There may be circumstances where an emergency wedding needs to take place - e.g. a Scottish couple who have complied with all Scottish marriage regulations are in England or Wales and one is seriously injured necessitating an emergency wedding. Such circumstances could be covered by special regulations.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Your consultation highlights the differences between the different methods of marriage. It should never be overlooked of course that, at heart, the church sees marriage as a God given "sacrament", a union specifically capable of being blessed by God - a perspective no doubt rejected or dismissed by and large by the state - under which the consultation operates. The church requirements may well differ - perhaps as extra rather than separate requirements - depending upon the state's requirements.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

No. On the basis that one of the main purposes as I understand is to prevent bigamy etc. This can be an extra requirement but not a separate stand alone requirement: otherwise it is in danger of being utilised to enable forced/sham etc. marriages.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

In an ideal situation I do agree. However these regulations will not have happened during COVID and may make it more difficult for people who attend a different denomination or whatever to marry in an Anglican church if they so choose - maybe their "home" church - if you now work in London but lived far away as a child.

Because of the serious nature of a marriage then, if the Anglican church continues to want to have this requirement in its rubric then they should be able. After all marriage, to the church, is a very serious sacrament and commitment.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Why not? At the end of the day both parties can/will lie if they so choose....

It is for this reason that "due diligence" at some point is so critical.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on what the civil preliminaries are. Provided that they do not conflict with CofE or CofW preliminaries it would then be still open to the churches to have their own separate regulations.

Churches may want to have separate preliminaries so that weddings in their premises reflect their religious beliefs and views on the place of marriage

## Chapter 5: Officiants

### Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not feel I understand what the "marriage schedule" is.

What should not happen is that the "marriage schedule" now or in the future contain information or declarations that are inconsistent with the basic information on the current marriage certificate. It should not become a document that is capable of imposing beliefs etc. on others.

### Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At present there are many non conformist churches (often called house churches) that rely on registration officers to officiate at weddings of their members. I have been a member of such churches and to enforce this proposal is to limit freedom of choice which goes against the whole tenor of the proposals.

As the Church of England is currently having to review its financial commitments with talk of closure of churches and with many other denominations closing churches in recent years this proposal may mean many couples having to opt for a non-religious wedding followed by a blessing in some other setting somewhere - but that is not affordable to many.

### Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As happens in church weddings at the moment - though the need for witnesses to the schedule/certificate should be retained - as a double check.

In my wife's family one brother is a professional organist and two are ordained clergy so that it has been possible to have family weddings "in-house": whilst this has not been a problem for us, others might abuse the situation to enable forced/sham etc. ceremonies. There should be some independent "reviewing" at some point therefore.

### Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but there should be some criteria/system so as to ensure that organisations do not abuse this facility for whatever purpose. There should also be some underlying agreement as to the purpose of marriage and what is permitted/expected etc. in marriage otherwise the word becomes meaningless. It may be that couples choose to ignore those "standards" etc. but it should not be a smorgasbord of definitions etc. whereby it is a free for all.

### Consultation Question 24:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above as to concerns that the word marriage and the underlying understanding of what is involved must have universal meaning and connotations unless language etc. is to become even more chaotic and destroyed as a vehicle for communication.

Please share your views below:



This may need to operate on a case by case basis but with overarching principles as with what is and is not regarded as charitable. The problem with this type of arrangement is that it could quickly become a situation whereby every type of belief wants its own type of officiant - e.g. with the way that veganism has been held as a belief system. The issue then becomes that each micro belief system creates its own micro bubble and begins to demand rights etc. seeing itself as another victim in the victimhood society we are creating.

Consultation Question 25:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to question 24 above.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The danger with this becomes when a traditionally widely held and accepted belief falls foul of current public opinion or orthodoxy - especially where the issue is still controversial - such as perhaps gay marriage. We cannot foresee views that may become accepted in future that are not currently but that should not mean that the state can prevent the organisation from holding those views. Furthermore if the view is on a matter that has nothing to do with marriage should that penalise the group - perhaps on matters such as hanging or some other issue, Nazism, the Holocaust, climate change.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No. Because you have no control over who the organisation nominates to the role. It could become the thin end of the wedge.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Should there be an appeal system? This would perhaps avoid any future "political correctness" impacting the register.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Current officiants have to undergo particular training etc. to ensure recognition of the importance of marriage etc. within society. This potentially opens it up to anyone with little to no consideration of the solemnity and importance of both marriage and the role of the wedding as part of that.

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not as simply as that. There needs to be some common standard and training etc. as at present. This risks trivialising the whole process.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is already expensive enough simply to get a licence and use a church. It may be said that it is the choice of the individual and "pretty" venues will be overwhelmed if they cannot take advantage accordingly in terms of pricing. On the other hand if the focus is taken off the venue and onto the marriage contract etc. then maybe that is the best solution.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This somewhat goes to the heart of the problem. Do we want to create a Hollywood style culture where the emphasis can become so much on the external aspects and not the truth of what two individuals are doing?

I have read that COVID has been a blessing to many because they have been able to avoid the cultural pressure for large weddings which has led some to bankruptcy.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It seems the mischief you want to avoid is "profiteering". Perhaps there should be fixed fees for bespoke parts - e.g. the interview, notice, service, certificate - with the officiant and/or venue from whatever "strand" allowed to agree any "extras".

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe there should be an equivalent of OFSTED etc. who can do "secret" visits to ensure this.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This should ensure the basic criteria along current lines to ensure a universal understanding and meaning so that if the service/marriage is later challenged there is a clear benchmark to operate against. It would then be for a party to prove otherwise.

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to officiants being removed in a "coup" when an organisation splits over an element of belief etc. There perhaps needs to be some independent evidence/hearing/appeal as necessary.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to rights of appeal etc.

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

subject to rights of appeal etc.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

but maybe 5 year checking as to continued compliance and suitability etc.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

In principle but, as indicated above, this could easily become a way of imposing a secular orthodoxy on religious belief if there continues to be change as at present. For instance there are many clergy and church leaders who do not agree with gay marriage of any form and there is some form of exemption so that they do not have to solemnise such marriages. This could override that important conscience exclusion. This could well apply to other faiths and other situations.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is critical that the wedding ceremony contain proper and meaningful language and vows etc. that demonstrates what the couple are entering into. If they do not agree with that, then the choice is simply to cohabit or maybe a civil partnership is the option for them. It should not be all things to all people otherwise you hollow out the whole relevance of marriage. If couples want to add their own additional words and vows they can.

It would also then potentially make a divorce all the more complex - what did they agree or not so what should be accepted in a divorce?

It is not sufficient that all that be implied by signing the declaration.

Consultation Question 43:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Provided that the form and ceremony addresses the points in Q42 - otherwise just cohabit etc.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It must be possible for a vicar/priest/rabbi etc. to refuse a couple a wedding if s/he does not consider that the couple hold to the beliefs of that faith or has other conscientious objections. It should not be necessary for the individual to disclose these because, in the current febrile climate that could open the individual and their family up to uncalled for humiliation.

As to the form it should, as above, have the necessary words etc. so that there is commonality across all wedding and marriage services.

Consultation Question 45:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

agreed: subject to the minimal required wording being included.

Please share your views below:

I think any religious wording should be allowed including readings from scriptures etc. The argument against has not been made to my view.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As at present there may be practical reasons why a religious service cannot be held first: in most cases the second religious service is merely a blessing.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Wedding guests are often invited on the premise that they are also invited to the reception after. That can prevent friends from simply attending the service. It also demonstrates it is an open event not secret.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is an important event and should not be trivialised by the ceremony being held in "inappropriate" settings. If people want to cock a snoot at the formalities then maybe marriage is not for them.

It is not appropriate for this consultation to lead to a trivialising or privatising marriage so that it simply becomes whatever the couple want. If they so wish then they can have the formal marriage with the relevant "checks" etc. with the minimum "fuss" and then personalise the "reception/party" so it is whatever the couple choose.

Please share your views below:

There maybe occasions where this is necessary but the default position should be that the wedding ceremony has a proper solemnity and occasion: there is no reason why the aspect of the venue generally cannot be part of the reception etc.

If the concern is as to photo opportunities etc. then does that not, of itself demonstrate a very superficial approach to the service. If the argument is that the initial interview covers these important steps then it excludes friends and family from being a part of that important part of the process etc.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

for reasons specified above

### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no compulsion one way or the other but each group identified should be able to turn down a request without having to give reasons: a couple to a civil wedding may hold views totally at odds with those of the religious organisation who own the venue so that would not be appropriate but otherwise I do not see a basic rationale for a prohibition.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is far too open to abuse. It is fine as regards the reception AFTER the wedding but not for the ceremony itself.

### Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

see my comments generally as regards venue above

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest that any such guidance have an objective not subjective approach - i.e. whilst it is the couple who are marrying, their choice should not be the final arbiter. If an officiant becomes known for being lax about this they could become the go to person and reduce the significance of what is being undertaken

### Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

see above. The wedding ceremony should be in a setting of suitable dignity

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These details can be important as ways of enabling family trees and genealogy to be proved: I am aware of this having dealt with intestacies on death and with statutory wills.

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As these are important documents of record why not have both languages at the start: this will potentially save later cost.

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

lack of capacity, sham and forced should also be automatically included.

On capacity, the level of capacity and understanding needs to be separately addressed. As marriage automatically revokes a will but the capacity to marry does not include understanding that a prior will is revoked is a lacuna that, when it applies, can cause expensive litigation and fractured families for a long time if not ever - typically pitting "step parent" against blood child who has lost out.

No

Please expand on your answer:

These are all important issues that can easily be avoided. If there is such a problem then it should be remediable - probably at the cost of the Officiant for not being duly diligent - a solicitor is typically liable in negligence in similar situations.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

but one that is rebuttable on the balance of probabilities

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

there needs to be clarity: inferring from conduct already has problems - e.g. living together for two years as man and wife immediately before death in order for a co-habitant to found an IPFDA 1975 claim.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I have no knowledge of the cases cited in the consultation but the longer the marriage persists does it become more difficult to deal with finances as they get more entangled with wider family contributions as well and also to deal with children.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be lifetime bans and severe penalties to discourage this.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

I have no experience or knowledge

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may need a form of truncated procedure but the fundamentals should still apply - to avoid people taking advantage of those very vulnerable etc.

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I'm unclear how this applies if at all to religious weddings?

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree in the case of parts 3 and 4. Each party needs to be physically present.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

We are all at risk of death: it is inevitable: this could be extremely difficult to monitor.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is fine for receptions etc. but not the ceremony itself except in the case of weddings involving a terminally ill party.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is discriminatory: lawyers cannot so charge for attending housebound clients. The same should be true for registration officers

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

It becomes difficult and subjective and perhaps highly emotional if not accepted when this is not needed

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no need for change

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

provided that the extra cost is not disability etc. related - as it is then discriminatory

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Is this not discrimination against those who cannot choose otherwise?

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Keep it the same as for everyone else

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The changes should not add cost as that can be a deterrent as it is. Equally the changes should not in anyway trivialise the serious nature of the commitment being made - either by watering down the content, or making it a glorified photo opportunity.

It is important that all couples make the commitments in a serious manner. Many of the proposals about personalising the service will I fear lead to a



trivialising of the occasion as well as making it more difficult, on any breakdown, to agree what was agreed/intended.

The party/reception can still be what the couple want.

It would be interesting to know how whether there is any correlation between the style and content of the initial ceremony and the length of marriage. Perhaps that research should be done.

#### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

There should be standard fees across the board so that one feels pressured into a marriage in a secular or religious setting against their beliefs etc.

Equally these should be set so that less well off couples do not feel excluded.

If there was a way of also dampening down on expectations of what is needed by way of numbers, reception etc. the better. I fear many are put off by the glamorous glitzy expensive weddings and receptions etc.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The danger of opening weddings to free enterprise as it were is that the true purpose and seriousness of what is being undertaken is overlooked etc. At this point it is not always what the couple want but what best provides a platform to ensure as few marriages founder as possible.

#### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This goes back to my distinction between the ceremony and reception/party. The latter can be as frivolous/eccentric etc. as the couple can choose and afford. The ceremony is an entirely different matter.

The two must not be conflated.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This goes back to my distinction between the ceremony and reception/party. The latter can be as frivolous/eccentric etc. as the couple can choose and afford. The ceremony is an entirely different matter.

The two must not be conflated.

#### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No knowledge.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

They might want to try and convert buildings or parks etc. to enable them to be used more widely as reception venues or [potentially wedding ceremony venues.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No knowledge other than that some people may think an overseas wedding complies with relevant UK laws when it does not.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

In both cases certificates to confirm that the local wedding complies with the law of the other country should overcome this. Maybe it could be included in the role of Notary Publics.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None known

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This goes back to my distinction between the ceremony and reception/party. The latter can be as frivolous/eccentric etc. as the couple can choose and afford. The ceremony is an entirely different matter.

The two must not be conflated.

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Given that I do not necessarily agree with aspects of the proposals that is difficult.

I think the ceremony should be eminently affordable and costs be consistent across the piece.

Couples and families can do what they want about receptions/blessings/parties

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFG2-W

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:29:52

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N/A

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Chose to have a legally binding marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree with the proposed duty, does not go far enough. Officiants should have a wider responsibility to ensure that the content and tone of the legal ceremony upholds the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

The proposals need to define what is meant by 'dignity' and 'solemnity'. The consultation seems to view ceremonies taking place "in the air" as being compatible with these tests, which suggests they are easy standards to reach.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate. Couples would be able to say anything they like or nothing at all. This is a major departure from the public declarations always considered foundational to the legal marriage ceremony.

This risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

There is already a large amount of flexibility in the wedding ceremony. The prescribed words are minimal and couples can add to them in all sorts of ways.

It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

The idea that a couple should be able to completely personalise their ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. So society and the law have an interest in the making of a public declaration. The logic of a wholly self-defined marriage ceremony is for marriage to be decoupled from the law and wider society. Marriage would become an entirely private matter, rather like a personal hobby

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.

The idea that a couple should be able to choose everything about a wedding ceremony comes from a wrong view of marriage. A wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have included themes

such as Alice in Wonderland, James Bond, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Marvel comics, Beauty and the Beast, Harry Potter, Star Wars and Flash Gordon. One had a 'Woodland Fairy themed ceremony with ponies dressed as unicorns' while another couple dressed as hedgehogs. It is very doubtful that many of these reflected how seriously marriage should be taken.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations. The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. Removing this requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to reiterate the seriousness and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

There are some specific benefits in a wider variety of venues being allowed (for example churches who do not own their own building), but I would express caution that this should not legitimise inappropriate settings.

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Please share your views below:

This question asks about couples having ceremonies "in the air", meaning the safe and dignified test doesn't seem too hard to meet. Would weddings



also be allowed in McDonald's or a Night Club?

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

I believe that marriage is the union of a man with a woman and no religious place should be forced to conduct a wedding against their beliefs.

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for "dignity" and "safety". While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFG4-Y

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:31:10

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### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As half of all the places of worship registered for weddings do not have a person authorised to conduct weddings, this would mean that many churches that now are able to conduct weddings would not be able to unless an authorised person is appointed. Many churches need civil registrars and if they did not have them many couples would need to have a civil ceremony in addition to their church wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

There is great danger to using such a subjective statement 'contrary to public policy or morality'. These views change over time, so statement should be more specific (like mentioning criminal activity such as terrorism, or advocating the overthrowing of democracy).

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is a danger that these independent officiants do not hold marriage in high regard and are just officiating for financial gain. Anything could go in the ceremony with few restrictions, and this could undermine the seriousness of the occasion.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Couples enter into marriage needing to make serious promises to each other and under these proposals there would not need to be anything said. It would become meaningless and casual. It would be highly personalised making it a private matter between the two people. The seriousness of the occasion made by serious legally-binding words would be lost.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A legally-binding wedding is a serious matter and the ceremony should reflect this. The phrase 'does not undermine the dignity and solemnity of marriage' is too subjective. Driven by financial gain, the officiant could allow anything.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage is not a private affair, and the ceremony should be open to those that haven't specifically been invited. This could be particularly important to prevent a forced marriage. A wedding should be open to the public as it is important to society as a whole, not just the couple.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to unsuitable venues being chosen. How can dignity of marriage be protected if inappropriate venues are used? The venue must not be allowed to detract from the seriousness of the occasion. It is vital that marriage is not trivialised, so safeguards must be put in place so that only suitable venues can be chosen.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Appropriate venues should be chosen to reflect the solemnity of the occasion and the vows that are being made.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:



Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKE-M

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:39:25

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### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be clear definition in law of what is meant by "dignity and solemnity of marriage". These terms alone could easily be interpreted in a wide variety of ways.

The venue of the wedding and the vows that are made both have a profound impact on the dignity and solemnity of marriage, so should be included in any legal definition.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The proposal to reduce marriage to simple signature, like signing a cheque, greatly diminishes the dignity and solemnity of marriage. No-one should be able to marry someone else without even turning up for their own wedding! That shows a total failure to respect the magnitude of the occasion and the seriousness of the commitment being made by both parties.

If people are not even willing to be present at their own wedding, then they clearly show themselves unwilling to make the required effort to build a secure and happy marriage for the good of their spouse and any children they may have together.

There needs to be minimum legal requirements, as there are at present, in the vows made by those getting married to adequately reflect the seriousness of the commitments being made by both parties. There is already great flexibility to add to or personalise vows without removing these minimal legal requirements.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious and solemn undertaking and to allow weddings to take any form imaginable totally contradicts this. It would encourage people to turn weddings into a joke or a stunt, rather than a serious, dignified and solemn occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The requirement for weddings to take place with open doors reflects the public nature of marriage. it does not only affect those getting married, but two extended families are also joined together and the whole of society has a duty to respect their new marital status for the good of everyone.

If this requirement was removed, then forced marriages could take place more easily and protection from public scrutiny would be lost.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As already stated, the idea of having a wedding anywhere is contrary to the seriousness, solemnity of the occasion. Some increase of suitable venues could be justified, but a free for all is not.

Please share your views below:

The venue should be accessible to the public, since marriage affects society as well as those getting married. It should be a place of dignity, not frivolity, to reflect the seriousness and solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See previous comments.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be too subjective. Instead, what constitutes a suitable location should be defined in law.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The determination of what is safe and dignified should not be left to an individual officiant, which would result in a very subjective judgement on each occasion. Instead these vague terms need defining in law to protect the institution of marriage as a serious and solemn undertaking that should not be entered into lightly.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFG9-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:47:33

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be a reasonable check on this: i) marriage should not be a spur of the moment decision like buying a TV, and even something like that has a 14 day cooling off period to ensure that you didn't make a mistake, and 2) there needs to be some possibility for the relevant authority to verify things. If 14 days is the consumer protection period there would seem to be some logic to this period.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:



Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

This would seem to be sensible to be left as is.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

There is no logic to change this.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This requires a certain minimum standard to be adhered to, it would not be appropriate for an organisation to nominate anybody without any thought.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is one definition only, and not a very good one. Needs more thought.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Far too vague, needs more thought.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Again far too vague, needs more thought.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Too vague and open to abuse on either side, needs more thought.

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This seems to have no coherent basis for who could do this.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There needs to be some guidance - what are the criteria, what is the basis for all this. It's all far too vague and ill conceived. What are the elements required (as referenced further below) and who determines them.

Consultation Question 31:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Needs more thought, ill conceived and vague.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Need to determine what the criteria for all this is first, again it's all far too ill conceived and badly thought out.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is still too vague and open to wrong and weak interpretation.

Consultation Question 36:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse and misinterpretation and partisan views.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What on earth would CPD mean in this context? What technical innovations occur in acting as a registrant? This would appear to be meaningless regulation.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a major departure from marriage vows as at present, which traditionally recognise that it is a covenant between 2 parties before a 3rd party. This requires a legal form of declaration to affirm this. It needs to be done publically, hence orally, unless there is a medical reason to prevent it.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There appears to be no reason why the core event should not be according to a prescribed legal form to remind the couple that this is a serious legal commitment which they are committing to. There is a risk of trivialising the core element.

Consultation Question 44:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs more detail to answer properly - appears to be lacking in thought as to the potential risks either way.

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would you want religious elements in a civil ceremony - makes no sense. It would run the risk of becoming meaningless in its context and insulting to those who sincerely hold such views.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Public access should continue be available since 1) it is a public commitment, and 2) it is a safeguard.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It runs the risk of trivialising it.

Please share your views below:

The actual ceremony should be conducted in a suitable location, the reception can be conducted at whatever venue anyone likes so why is there a need to change this? It runs teh risk of trivialising a serious legal commitment.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open access to a public event is necessary for safeguarding and becuae it is a public commitment.

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely there should be other reasons - for example already being married?

No

Please expand on your answer:

Those checks are there for a reason, why should they be removed?

Consultation Question 58:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely other reasons too?

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If you don't consent then surely 3 years is enough time to state this?

Consultation Question 61:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

### Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

These are the wrong questions- surely marriage is about commitment and therefore the law should be encouraging couples to think seriously about this such that their marriages endure. There is no point having more marriages if there is an increase in divorces equal to it. There is a vast weath of data that shows that marriage is good for society, but marriage that endures. To achieve this couples need to be aware of what they are doing and the long term commitment involved.

### Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

### Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFG3-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:52:03

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes however on the basis that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect against trafficking and forced marriages.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Remote interviews should certainly be allowed with training given to those conducting them remotely as to the signs to look for in relation to sham/forced marriages and or capacity in respect of consent.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No as this would grant such individuals a privilege based on religion. If the couple being married are not religious and a religious officiant was allocated to them they would have no say in this. It also takes away work from non-religious officiants who have worked to achieve that role. Those individuals would not be granted the same privilege so why should religious officiants receive this.

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Illegal practices should not be allowed however such a rule should not impinge upon free speech and human rights.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please explain what the definition of dignity and solemnity of marriage is. This seems to be from a religious and or conservative (not the political party) point of view.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes although the guidance should be agreed beforehand by both religious and non-religious organisations.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes so long as the venue and location chosen are safe to do so, do not break any other laws and do not cause destruction to the environment or protected areas of nature.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

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Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFMA-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:52:40

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I am an officiant at wedding services

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In a regular marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

None

### Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

It has been ridiculous that weddings did not happen during Covid. We had to bring forward one wedding to the eve of Lockdown 2 (November) in order to allow a couple to get married with 8 people present. It would have been reasonable to restrict parties, but the wedding ceremony is important. People should be allowed to begin a marriage with a wedding ceremony, even if parties have to be postponed. The ban trivialised marriage to an optional extra and forced couples to live together without the value of the wedding ceremony as a moment of initial commitment.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples now come from different areas and the fact of residence in a particular area does not mean that they are known there. (The eighteenth century reason for the rule (connected with banns) is irrelevant today.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

While identity needs checking, an important feature must be the capacity to deliver. We are finding with the requirement of interviews for migrants that there are long delays in obtaining an appointment - the local registry office only holds them on one day in a week.

### Consultation Question 6:

three days;

Please expand on your answer:

As long as identity has been checked, then other arrangements will have been made already

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There will be advantages of online interviews. I would suggest that a witness to support the identity could be the officiant. In churches, we know the people we are marrying and have known them for some time.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Specifying "Commonwealth" countries is potentially discriminatory on grounds of race (similar to "patrial" status). The rule should at least apply to Ireland (the common travel area) and to other countries where there is a secure way of assessing identity, eg through a consulate.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a public event and should be publicly known

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be control over who can conduct the wedding - whether it is a person or an institution is less of an issue.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An essential requirement (eg if the officiant goes down with Covid or falls ill

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Anglican church is a worldwide communion and can be trusted to operate as such

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Since people will rarely live in the parish, the banns should be published in the location of the residence of each of the parties to the wedding.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Certainly they should have power to require documents in the same way as a registrar. They should not be required, but may be permitted to meet separately if there is a good reason.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

They should act separately. But they should be allowed to make the statement in the presence of each other.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

We do not want to move to the French system where the civil marriage preliminaries are the sole recognised form of marriage

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The wedding is an official act and should be attended by someone authorised and responsible to a public body

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It may be necessary for a registration officer to be called in to officiate at a church wedding, eg in the absence of a registered officiant

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The registration officer is a public official and can be trusted to behave responsibly

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This system has worked for years and there is no reason to change it

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The people entrusted with the role of officiant should be subject to some kind of scrutiny process and this seems sensible

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I am happy with this for humanists. There are difficulties for those with looser belief systems, but the state official is probably sufficient for them

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We do need some limits on what constitutes a religion and this is sensible

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

There is no need. There would be inherent power to reject a person who plans to act contrary to public policy. The only advantage of a rule here is to provide for a process by which a rejected person could appeal.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This would be helpful where the parish priest changes during the period between the interview and the wedding.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is proper that the Government has overall control of this system of officiants and ensures that they remain properly trained and of good behaviour

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Provided the people are of appropriate standard and training, there is no reason why independents could not so act. They do very well in conducting funerals

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The state has to be assured that the people acting on its behalf are fit and proper persons and organisations should provide it with evidence that this is the case.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

initial and regular update training are essential

Consultation Question 32:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Humanist officiants at funerals do run as small businesses and do the job well. I see no reason why they should not do the same for weddings. It is a slur to suggest that running a business will necessarily mean they put profit before belief.

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Regulated fees for the wedding service should be established. But there will also be extras for which an additional charge may be made.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If people are acting because of a belief, they cannot act for contradictory beliefs as well!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential to maintain the public character of the event.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The organisation should act first, but then the state should monitor this

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be an appropriate process, but this is essential for the state to maintain control over marriage

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no other way of achieving control

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is better that there is a renewal period and a review of whether the officiant has undergone training. As ministers of religion, we have a regular review of our authority to celebrate other services and the same should be true for weddings

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential that the officiant is up to date with procedures and requirements

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The impediments question does belong in the preliminaries.

Consent is essential and it is proper that the formulation of that consent is verified. There is a question whether the consent should be in English (or Welsh). With migrant individuals settled in the UK but using religious rites in other languages (eg Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Syro-Malabar Catholics), it might be proper that the consent is expressed in a language other than English.

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the essentials of the seriousness of marriage as a commitment and the appropriate solemnity of the occasion are recognised. But this is best achieved by guidance from the Registrar General

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Restrictions should be a matter of religious practice

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be appropriate to have a religious blessing for people who cannot have a religious wedding (eg divorced Catholics). This would be a welcome innovation for these couples.

Please share your views below:

Any examples should be in guidance, not rules. An obvious form of religious content would be a blessing prayer.

Consultation Question 46:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There should be no restriction on when a religious service takes place or what its content might be. We regularly have "convalidation" services even years after a civil wedding (eg one which took place in Saudi Arabia where Christian marriages were not permitted). So I see no reason for that practice not applying to the UK. Having a specific permission is unnecessary.



Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public event and so should be accessible to any member of the public (within reason).

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As long as the ceremony fits within guidelines that make it appropriate as a solemn occasion, the venue should be flexible.

on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

A venue should be public or accessible to the public during the ceremony, since it is a public act.

It might be appropriate to have a wedding on a boat where the solemn character of the commitment can be emphasised. But it is hard to conceive of a serious act done in the air eg in a balloon or bungee jump. Limitations should be in guidance, not law.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a public act which confers a public status and so accessibility is an important safeguard for the character of the event. The party is obviously private, but the wedding is not.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil weddings are secular and should be kept as such. Religious or belief weddings may share venues in appropriate circumstances, and should be allowed to do so.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It may be appropriate for the venue to be specified in the licence to marry and in publicity and for there to be an objection procedure to challenge the appropriateness of a venue.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Dignified simply means that it respects the solemn character of the commitment the individuals are undertaking

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Guidance is the best way of helping a decision to be reached

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would avoid any challenge to a regular venue and be a safeguard for the investments a venue might put into being ready for weddings

Please share your views below:

The venue organiser should apply to the local Registrar setting out how they satisfy the requirements set out in guidance and the local Registrar should be allowed to approve after publication of the application and the absence of challenge. Any challenges should be resolved by the Registrar-General

## Chapter 8: Registration

### Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The occupation should simply state "parent" without putting "mother" or "father". There are too many divorced or adoptive parents these days. So "parent" should be defined as the person occupying a parental role in a person's life, rather than being the biological father or mother of the child (who may not have seen them for years and may not wish to own them as part of the future relationship with their spouse).

### Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Welsh should be fully respected (including in marriages in England)

### Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Most activities now take place online and this would be an improvement on paper registers. But we also have to be able to cope with technical hitches! So a paper record should be kept at the same time until the officiant is satisfied that the electronic recording has actually occurred.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

### Consultation Question 57:

No

Please expand on your answer:

These are all formal invalidities. So 3 and 4 should be independent of the knowledge of the parties. Either the person was an officiant or she was not. If a person sat in the registrar's office and conducted a wedding, but was, in fact, the cleaner, the ceremony would be null and void. The same should apply to a person holding themselves out to be an officiant.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The presence of witnesses is important as evidence of consent. Items 1 and 3 should be capable of correction within an appropriate time and so only render the marriage voidable

### Consultation Question 58:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For the reasons given above 1a stands on its own and 1b should not depend on knowledge, it is a formal bar in its own right and does not depend on knowledge.

### Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cohabitation is not always possible and the essence of marriage is consent and an intention to commit indefinitely to the other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for marriage by reputation in the modern world

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It should depend on a reasonable time to be examined in each case

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is proper that a person should not hold out themselves as having authority which they do not have

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The key for the wedding of those who are terminally ill lies in getting a registrar. It would be good if the registrar could simply authorise a licensed officiant to conduct the ceremony once the registrar is satisfied that the conditions are met for this form of ceremony

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the key is that the registration officer may need to go to the hospice, rather than relying on the couple attending the registrar's office. Online interview may be appropriate with a doctor in attendance.

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Registrars are sufficiently competent in this matter

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This enables the couple to cope with treatment making it difficult to be precise about when a wedding could happen

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Similar reasons to q. 65

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The ability to attend remotely is recognised in other countries, eg Italy, so it should be recognised here. (What was good enough for [REDACTED] is good enough for the rest of us: marriage by proxy)

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A sensible provision given the trouble we have had with Covid-19

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Risk of death is sufficient to justify departure from normal rules

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

If a marriage in a boat is appropriate, then this is sensible

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This fits established custom

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No view, other than that it should include Royal Navy vessels

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The arrangement about the officiant is the safeguard of propriety and knowledge of process. If the designation were of a function ("captain of the ship") that would suffice, if the person is suitably instructed

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, the person should be authorised in advance

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

If individuals are at sea for a long period of time, then marriage by chaplain would be appropriate, just as a funeral by a chaplain would be. An example would be crews who have been at sea for over 6 months in the recent pandemic

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

### Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fees should not dissuade marriage

### Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Individuals in such circumstances are in a lot of financial as well as emotional stress and really need compassionate treatment

### Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The local authority should charge a fee to recover its reasonable costs. It is conferring a benefit on the venue

### Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As above, it is conferring a benefit on the venue and a reasonable charge should be made

### Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is a significant inconvenience and it creates a lost opportunity to conduct other ceremonies during that time, creating a delay for other couples

### Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

For those in prison, there should be a lower fee, because they have no significant income. It is part of rehabilitation to establish enduring relationships outside prison.

### Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

There should perhaps be a means tested fee up to a low level. Some people will not be able to pay anything significant.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A fixed fee seems the best way to ensure fairness

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The costs and difficulties of conducting a ceremony are not major determinants of whether people marry. The potential arrival of children or death seems to be the dominant reason for deciding to get married. Poor experiences of parents' marriage is a reason for not getting married at all. None of the proposals will affect these dominant motives

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Given the average cost of a wedding (now estimated at £10,000), the cost of officiants or being in places of worship is very small in the total budget. Convenience of getting married in a venue in which the reception will take place is probably a significant determinant in the choice of venue, not cost.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I doubt if the cost element is really significant

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

No comment

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no knowledge of the burdens on local authorities, other than the fact that they are under-resourced in general terms

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The present immigration aspects of marriage law have the following problems:

(1) those who are not UK citizens but are lawfully resident here are typically subjected to (a) a 70(not 28) day notice period which is an option for the Home Office to object, but is rarely taken up; and (b) the notice period runs only from the date of an interview and there are significant delays in some part of the country in having such an interview because resources do not allow the registrar to give over more than one day a week (so 4-6 interviews) to this task.

(2) immigration law imposes a minimum income on a UK citizen or resident to bring their spouse into the UK. This is a major deterrent or inconvenience for genuine marriages.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I see no great improvement, apart from the residence requirement being changed. The major obstacles lie with immigration law. But the resourcing of interviews for those giving notice when one part is not a UK citizen needs to be addressed.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

There will be no significant increase in costs to religious organisations. There will be some (eg the cost of becoming an officiant and the cost of vetting premises), but these are reasonable.

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFHA-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 18:59:28

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I personally prefer to remain private as this is a personal response not representing any organisation.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Married in a Roman Catholic Church [REDACTED].

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

none.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:



Not applicable.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It fails to show commitment at a very early stage. At least one of the parties should live in the Registrar's District.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

This gives people time to think seriously about the commitment they are going to make.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should be made possible, especially where one of the parties may be giving overseas due to work commitments.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Agree.

### Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Where Banns are needed then they should also be published at the place of marriage and in the parishes where each party lives to reduce the possibility of a bigamous marriage.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

See question 13

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Agree.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

No Comment.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Disagree

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Agree

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should be set financial constraints.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

With the proviso that Religious Organisations are free to incorporate their long-standing traditions established over centuries.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be reviewed every 10 years.

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Those with a deep faith would find that this would be unacceptable.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It must be a public commitment as it is legally binding and needs to be seen as such.

It also prevents bigamous marriages taking place!

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Needs to be a public commitment.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

This removes the Venue's hosts ability to disagree with the couple's religious views and therefore removes their rights of free speech and beliefs.

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A paper document may be required to be seen by legal people and/or insurers if there is a future dispute. Also some Countries may require written proof for entry/exit.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Who in prison is authorised to solemnise weddings?

Certain cases could be placing an innocent party at grave risk where a violent offender is involved and this case should be very closely examined in the light of the offenders prison history.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But only in the case where there is a child about to be born or already in existence as a result of the partnership.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 71:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Preferably the most senior officer on board at the time. The couple should be able to show that this has been planned for some time and hold some form of permit issued by the UK registrar or representative of the home town of one of the parties getting married.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

No comment.

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I do not see why this should not apply where one of the parties is an UK Citizen.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Medically housebound persons should not be penalised if they would have come to the Registrar and pay that fee. Alternately they could be asked to pay a fee commensurate with the venue they would have held the wedding at had it not been necessary to be housebound.

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:



If the wedding is to be held in a hospital or hospice then there should be no fee, as death of the party is imminent, and it would be unkind and unchristian to charge them a fee.

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But see answer to question 83 - above.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Cannot comment on this. But anything that legally protects married parties is to be preferred.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

No comment available due to insufficient data.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The legislation does not specifically appear to include the Roman Catholic Church and this should be rectified to bring it under the same rules as all the other denominations.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Already commented previously.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See previously.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

None.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Time savings for registrars in not having to approve venues for weddings other than to review them annually.

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See previous comments.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See previous comments.

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous comments.](#)

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

[See previous comments.](#)

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

[See previous comments.](#)

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFK8-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:00:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

METHODIST

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too short a time factor.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All interviews should be in person only at all times

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

By certificate should be twenty-one days as at present then to take place within a three month period from giving notice, as at present

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

This is a ridiculous and dangerous proposal and is an invitation for malpractice and unlawful procedures.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

See answer to '7' above and terminate the employment of those who are proposing such ill advised practices.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Continue with present system which is safer.

Consultation Question 10:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Keep to present practice which has worked well - 'if is aint broke, don't fix it.'

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No need for this, as present system of Authorized Person within a Registration District is sufficient

Consultation Question 12:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to '11' above. The Officiant must be an Authorized Person within that Registration District.

Please share your views below:

No, it would invite trouble and malpractice

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why? What lies behind all these proposed changes? Leave things as they are and stop this problematic interference instead of asking for trouble and dangerous practices resulting.

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Churches were have previously suffered war damage without any need to water down legal proceedings

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Leave the present system in place

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Documentary evidence should already be provided. If in doubt as to the consent of each of the couple, then the Anglican Priest can always follow the option of interviewing bride and groom separately.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican marriage should still be recognised as legal with documentation.

If the question asks should all weddings be preceded by a civil marriage service, then with full Registration at a Register Office the answer is NO.

Of the question asks should Anglican weddings be preceded by Registration at the Register Office, then this should be explored, in the first place, with the [REDACTED].

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely, this is done at present.

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Registration Officers (Authorised Persons) when Ordained Ministers in a place of  
Worship should still be able to officiate, unless there is doubt as to their standing

Consultation Question 21:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I need to know why this question is being asked.

Consultation Question 22:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Keep at as present

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If the religious organisation is recognised as orthodox, yes. If not, care has to be taken  
so that malpractice does not ensure or face marriages occur.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could lead to non marriages taking place

Please share your views below:

Far better not to propose this

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Dangerous practices could ensue. Any group could meet together under any  
circumstances. What ill advised people are proposing these things

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

The law should not be able to to exclude religious organizations on the grounds  
that those organizations do not agree with any Government's liberal unbiblical  
ideologies.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

No, it must be an individual who can be checked out.

Consultation Question 28:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Surely this is the present practice

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would be a dangerous path to go down

Consultation Question 30:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Authorized Persons need to be checked

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely, as should be the case at present

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Surely this does not require to be expanded.

Consultation Question 33:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But how is this to be overseen?

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Conducting marriage should not be business but part of an existing role

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious ceremony

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

As at present - presumably!

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There will no doubt be occasions when Officiants are 'slip shod' and inefficient and this will only come to light through Marriage Returns etc.

However this does not mean that an Officiant can be removed for refusing the officiate against their religious conscience.

Consultation Question 38:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See answer to '27' above.

Officiants holding to religious conscience should not be 'fined' 'prosecuted' or removed from office.

Consultation Question 39:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would give the General Register Office officials the power to discriminate against Officiants with whose religious views they disagreed and allow these officials to promote their own liberal ideologies

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The authorization surely goes with the post the person holds.

Consultation Question 41:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Does this mean if they fail to accept liberal ideologies? These questions sound rather manipulative

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1. 'No impediment' should be expressed in the service, otherwise it makes a nonsense of it

2. The legal wording should be submitted

3. The signing of Wedding Registers should continue as at present

4. The marriage is legal after the signing of the Registers unless anything unforeseen should occur to prevent the signing, then the marriage would be deemed legal after the vows before witnesses had been made

As at present

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not as chosen by the parties who are being influenced by T.V 'soap operas'

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



If they all contain legal wording and signatures

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious contact should be contained in civil ceremonies

Please share your views below:

Prayers, hymns etc.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It depends on a couple's reason for this and should not be dismissed out of hand

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Doors can be left unlocked, especially if someone genuinely needs to 'bring just cause'

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should take place in safe, and sensible places to reflect the seriousness or the occasion

Please share your views below:

Outdoors weddings need to be in confined areas

If on the water, what is to be the limitation of Registration area?

Not in the air as for reasons given above and would extend them,

Not in private homes as anything illegal could occur

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to dangerous practice

Consultation Question 50:

No

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Civil Weddings should not be allowed by the denomination or forced by Government

As already stated, religious elements should be allowed in civil ceremonies where the couple wish it. Why should a civil ceremony preclude the religious?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would put undue pressure on the officiant

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a serious act

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should not have to undertake such responsibility.

What would it do to their insurance premiums?

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If the officiant is secular, they can simply refuse to officiate.

Please share your views below:

Don't entertain such a proposal!

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The date of the wedding should be left as at present with the two month or so fluidity to allow for illness etc.

Surely the location is already required

Parents should not be able to identify by any other than their birth relationship.  
However not only the father's name and details should be on the Certificate but the MOTHER'S ALSO

Consultation Question 55:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is not an easy question, what is the present practice ?

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why ?

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Otherwise, in all cases the marriage would be legal

No

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage would be void. This proposal is dangerous and could lead to malpractice

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is obviously so

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is to give legal credibility to immigration marriages

No

Please expand on your answer:

Co-habitation cannot be recognised as marriage when it so obviously is not marriage

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Lack of consent cannot hold a time limit

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It must be so

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Where persons wishing to be married are doing so owing to health reasons, then present regulations must continue

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This must be done to ensure that there is no coercion involved

Consultation Question 64:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Continue as at present

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could be open to abuse

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The situation for these categories should be bound by normal procedures

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In the case of a national emergency, special legislation could be considered.

However marriage should not be carried out remotely as this is asking for malpractice

No

Please expand on your answer:

Each case should be considered individually and signed by a responsible independent person.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is no evidence to support short circuiting proceedings.

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Territorial sea does not define a Registration district

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Only if the ship is a permanent fixture in the Registration District

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Depending on its sea-worthiness, the vessel is immaterial, the Registration District is important

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not necessary if this not permitted

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

if this were to take place, then the chaplain or captain surely would be the obvious person

No

Please expand on your answer:

They should be under the law of the land

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't even consider it

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Not come across any

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This invites irresponsible legalities

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If Officiants work with a Registration District any fee, if claimed, would be nominal

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

The fee surely would be the same as any other in the Registration District

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Cannot see why it would need to change

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a site has to be checked to make sure it is safe and dignified, it should not even be considered.

Far better to depict in advance those sites which are acceptable

Consultation Question 79:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Rate payers should not have to fund the perusal of sites. These sites should be obvious by reputation without any scrutiny

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a fee is to be charge for travelling outside the office, then that is the responsibility of the wedding couple and should be based on mileage

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No extras should be charged to rate payers

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This would have to be so

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Without a doctors certificate, the regular fee would have to be charged.  
Otherwise perhaps a reduced rate could be charged

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Why should travelling costs be incurred ?

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law has worked for many years, please adhere to it and do not belittle the seriousness of the marriage ceremony. Do not make marriage easier to undermine, easier to coerce or misuse

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Couples choose where they wish to marry, it is up to them as to whether they are willing to pay for the privilege.

If, knowingly, a couple marry in non authorised premises, then they are breaking the law and the costs incurred should be the amount they pay in fines!

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The availability of register office weddings should remain

If approved locations are listed, then there would be no question of costs incurred through visiting unlisted venues.

If a couple desire a two tier wedding, then they should be responsible for the cost

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

See answers already given

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

All sites must be Government approved.

As regards (4) is it thought that marriages will increase if they is made easier to achieve or more novel to undertake ? If marriages are made easier to achieve, then the door is open to malpractice. A couple genuinely wishing to marry, will do so under present regulations.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

After officiating at numerous marriages and carrying out the legalities correctly so as to fulfill the purpose for which they are intended, I do not see any need to lessen the importance of the regulations.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Presumably these proposals will make more work for local authorities and cost the rate payers more money in order to provide services that are not necessary

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Residents can already travel to other jurisdictions provided the legalities are performed

It should not be made easier for residents of overseas jurisdictions to travel to England and Wales to be married. Safeguards are necessary.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See answer to '89' above

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Cruise ships owners would probably welcome it whilst maritime legislation (rather than the industry) could well suffer

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

See above answer

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

Unnecessary costs Coasts to Government and local authorities will fall on the rate payers  
Businesses will always make profits out of weddings

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGC-E

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:02:47

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Humanists Uk

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

n/a

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I conduct Humanist wedding ceremonies which are not legally recognised in England and Wales

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Couples are always made fully aware that their ceremony has no legal standing and they have to register the marriage separately, but they want to go ahead anyway because they want their ceremony to be more special and meaningful.

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:



I wanted a celebrant led wedding so that it would be more personal and reflect our beliefs as humanists, but our venue had a wedding licence and it wasn't cost effective to pay for a registrar as well as a celebrant

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

All but one of my 2020 couples have postponed their weddings, which means they have had to postpone both their celebrant led ceremony as well as the legal registration which has meant double the logistics and replanning. Constant changes to guidelines mean that some have now postponed multiple times. The ability to be legally married outside without a fixed licensed structure would be helpful, even if numbers still needed to be lower than previously.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The person conducting the ceremony should share the belief system of the couple

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The definition is too ambiguous and open to misinterpretation

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

More standards required to ensure safeguarding, professionalism and reduce the risk of commercialisation

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Too ambiguous - who is the arbiter of morality? And there are many public policies I disagree with!

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There is currently insufficient training, monitoring and regulation of these kinds of officiants as there is no governing body - Humanists uk has a rigorous training, regulation and safeguarding policy.

Consultation Question 30:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should definitely be some checks and suitability assessment but this should be carefully regulated

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Humanists uk celebrants already operate in this way in Scotland and NI

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 43:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Maybe a little for mixed faith couples or for inclusion for cultural or sentimental reasons, but otherwise this undermines the whole principle of having a non-religious ceremony

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

People should have the option of their ceremony being held in a meaningful place but also private and open only to those people they have invited.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, although religious ceremonies should still be linked to their place of worship . Lots of people have a special place where they would love to get married but currently can't legally, and as Humanism is such a celebration of the natural world many humanist couples would like to get married in a beautiful scenic spot to recognise this

Please share your views below:

as long as health and safety is considered I think all of these are good potentially ceremony spots, if they are meaningful to the couple.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

question too unclear

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

yes clear standards should be set

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

for couples who just need to do the paperwork and get married for logistical reasons

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I have had couples decide to compromise on their wish for a personalised meaningful humanist ceremony because they can't afford to 'do it twice'

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:



Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF9G-4

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:16:12

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Not applicable

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not use social media and am aware that scammers frequently obtain confidential information.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I suggest they would need to be in an English or Welsh registration district for a minimum of seven days but not necessarily the one where they propose to be married.

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

An in-person interview would need to be within a maximum time scale. Say within two weeks of receipt of notice being received.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Time for reflection is needed. I suggest one month.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I consider there are far too many risks associated with interviews being conducted remotely.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I consider this should still be possible.

Consultation Question 9:

No

Please expand on your answer:

At first glance this may seem reasonable but it would enable those with vested interests and /or criminal intent (e.g. burglary) to exploit the couple for financial gain or to pursue religious persecution.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Discretion should be given to Registrars in approved circumstances

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would only agree if the officiant, in both cases, was a legally recognised Registrar.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the proviso in the previous question.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Some Anglican parishes include more than one church. Insufficient knowledge to answer this.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree with both 1) and 2).

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes both of the couple to attend but at separate times to avoid any cases of intimidation by their prospective marriage partner.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

This appears to provide a uniform approach to weddings.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I submit the officiant should always be a licensed registrar.

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what is meant by this. If the reference is to weddings of service personnel based in the U.K. then the situation needs further discussion.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as they are qualified , yes. Why add extra expense to an expensive day.

Consultation Question 22:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not unless they are recognised as approved government registrars.

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This risks devaluing the societal importance of marriage. For the sake of children marriage needs to be fully respected as a life long commitment between the couple. Officiants need to be fully trained, legally appointed registrars whose position is acknowledged throughout society as a whole.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The definition quoted is far too vague and open to moral questioning. We are fallible human beings who must answer to a higher authority for our actions. Humankind needs hope and has to seek guidance. Love must rule the world to ensure forgiveness, peace and justice; the secular world can never provide this.

Please share your views below:

No list. This would give rise to endless disputes and further undermine marriage as an institution. Marriage needs to be closely defined for society's well being.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

1) Only officially recognised registrars, not 'officiants' and 2) not non-religious organisations.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, I agree with this.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

We need a definition of the marriage ceremony. Where should it take place? There have to be strict, enforceable guidelines in place, since in contemporary society there are far too many 'party time' ceremonies which fail to recognise what should be a serious, committed and life-long commitment between the two partners. Anyone looking at the latest figures for marriage breakups would realise this. Many children are now being cared for by struggling single parents, a situation only compounded by Covid 19.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is far too loose. Both partners must be present at the wedding ceremony and express their wish to be married to one another. The proposals would further devalue marriage which is such a highly important element of a caring, civilised society.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely No! We have far too many examples of marriage not being taken seriously.  
A case of 'Let's make up our own rules' Irresponsible, immature and dangerous

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Unsure on this. Faith conflicts may later be resolved by agreement between the partners.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Forced marriages are sadly a fact of today's multicultural society. Open doors can help prevent this and protect the innocent. A marriage should be an open statement between two people who truly want to spend the rest of their lives together.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A total nonsense! Where is the dignified and safe commitment in this proposal. Appropriate buildings must be clearly designated.

Please share your views below:

None of the above!

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The civil wedding ceremony must be fully open

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Providing the officiant is a fully approved registrar and the location complies with current legislation.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In the light of past events safe and dignified needs to be closely defined and adhered to.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I consider this unsafe.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Flexibility needs to be shown here

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Some flexibility should be shown.

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGQ-V

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:20:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Married for 43 years and heterosexual

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

N/A

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Non event

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Avoids bogus marriages

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Avoids bogus/ sham/ forced marriages marriages

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Time for registrar to do inquiries if unhappy with the set up

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

There should definitely be an in person interview to avoid abuse of system.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

That is reasonable.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This would give time and ability for objections to be raised where forced marriage is being proposed.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Sometimes a couple may need to plan a marriage in advance if they are unable to marry immediately because of work or being in another country.

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as there is a good briefing and handover of the applicants interview.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

So long as the UK remains a United Kingdom judicially then it should remain possible.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is very unnecessary as Anglican churches usually operate as a team with other churches in the same diocese and therefore would cooperate in the event of a fire or destruction of a building.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Yes- that is the best policy which has worked to date.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

They should meet at some time well before the wedding and should have power to call for documentary evidence to prevent sham marriages.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, in order to prevent polygamy.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Christian marriage is a solemn promise before God and holds great weight.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So that it is legally binding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There must be one law for all - religious and non religious organisation. There would be opportunity for abuse in certain religions to forced marriages if certain religions were allowed to choose whichever officiant they want to meet their ends.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is NOT the same as civil partnerships. It is a covenant before God and creates the basis for stable families. It is a Judeo- Christian building block of society upon which our nation has been built.

Please share your views below:

Yes there should be.

E.g. humanists? TreeHuggers?

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Absolutely they should be excluded from nominations officiants if their organisation promotes purposed contrary to public policy and morality.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The present system is good enough.

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

They would need to be trained and trusted and have a value system that complies with the traditional definitions of marriage.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Fit and proper is a brand term and would need to be well defined and not contradictory to the traditional definition of marriage.

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a governmental office with clear guideline of charges established by central government.

Consultation Question 34:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be possible for a person or persons who are not a part of the organisation that nominated the officiant to bring a charge against an officiant who fails to comply with his or her duties / responsibilities.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:



Consultation Question 43:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of expression allowed so long as it doesn't conflict with the civil ceremonies content.

Please share your views below:

See above

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Freedom of speech and action.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is a public declaration therefore anyone should be free to attend.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Within government guidelines

outdoors,

Please share your views below:

It should always be in a public place - not in private

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

No

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Those wishing to use religious facilities should respect their beliefs

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The Officiant should have clear guidelines in his or her training to know where a wedding can or cannot take place.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The guidelines should be clear and the venue host should comply with those guidelines in order to have a license to host the marriage ceremony

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

English is the first language of the UK

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Nothing beats the written word!

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

All three items above should be in place for a marriage to be valid, especially the issue of witnesses.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It's called a common law marriage but legally it holds no water.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Sometimes it allows for the couple to get back together.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

To establish that there is a genuine issue of illness and no forced marriages

Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Those in prison should forfeit their right to marriage and other rights until they have served their sentence.

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The couple MUST be present together during the ceremony.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Need to give the name of the officiant too!

Consultation Question 72:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

So long as they are legitimate officiants.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

There are many women who have undergone a religious ceremony which is not recognised by law and they then have no recourse if the husband decides to divorce her so these proposals will hopefully close the loopholes.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Costs should be kept to a minimum but all things in life have a cost.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFKX-7

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:30:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

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What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a marriage where we took our vows to live together "until death do us part" where the ceremony was in a Christian church witnessed by friends and family.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Despite limitations imposed by COVID, provisions should include robust measures to minimise risk of sham and forced unions.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Suggest that at least one is resident in UK and that they give notice.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I am against that.

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Banns should be published where the applicants are known.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:



Please share your views below:

Banns should be published where the applicants are known.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

This is surely a matter for the clergy to decide, not a matter of law.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Agreed

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The marriage ceremony is performed before people and God to declare their lifelong commitment. The officiant's role is to help ensure that this is so.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

While such a secular organisation may have a belief system, how is such an organisation as the nazis who had genocidal beliefs excluded?

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

agreed

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Such officiants should only be allowed to act in the case of members of their "society".

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

officiants should only be able to practice for those adhering to their faith or values.

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But continuing professional development should be based on Christian belief.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The people to be married should publicly state that they are committing themselves to each other for the rest of their lives.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

the ceremony should be public, "solemn" and include certain minimum instructions to underline the significance of the event.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This is a public ceremony where all may attend the joining of them.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, insofar as the requirements for a public, dignified, "solemn" ceremony are fulfilled.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

No

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Allow the religious group to specify

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

the General Register Office

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGD-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:38:19

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants need to make sure that the words used in the ceremony and the way in which it is conducted should emphasize the solemn nature of marriage. Also, the meaning of the words "solemnity" and "dignity" needs to be clearly defined as they could mean different things to different people.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:



Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the point of a wedding ceremony which doesn't require the parties to express their consent to marry each other using a universally recognized form of words at the ceremony itself? If the formation of a marriage depends solely on the signing of a document, irrespective of whether or not that takes place at the wedding ceremony, it takes away from the solemnity of the marriage and trivializes it.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There should at least be a basic form of words which encapsulates and expresses the solemn nature of marriage and ensures that there is a common standard of commitment. Parties could then be free to expand on those words if they wish to, provided that any additions are consistent with the basic form of words.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is not solely a private matter between the parties concerned. Every marriage has an impact on society, and the wedding ceremony should therefore in principle be open to the public. Also, being open to the public is a safeguard against forced marriage.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues for wedding ceremonies should be universally recognized as reflecting the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Please see my comment for Q47 above. Also, wedding ceremonies should be held in places which are accessible to members of the public.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The words "safe" and "dignified" need to be clearly defined, as they could mean different things to different people.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please see my comment above.

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFG6-1

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:43:18

### About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Cliona Howell

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

I am a private individual and am a solicitor, practising as Cliona O'Tuama Solicitor.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

I do not require my responses to be treated as confidential.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I was married [REDACTED] that is recognised by the law.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

N/A

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

This does not apply to me, as my marriage had no legal barriers.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

I have no personal experience but know couples who had to postpone their weddings due to Covid-19.

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that couples are resident in England or Wales for a longer period than seven days.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am concerned at the possibility for fraud by notice not being given in person in all cases.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A minimum of fourteen days, except in exceptional circumstances, such as one party being terminally ill.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

It should definitely not be possible for any interview to take place remotely. There are too many opportunities for fraud and "sham" marriages.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

I agree with the current position about this.

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

In a religious marriage, it is not always possible to know in advance the name of the celebrant. Similarly in a marriage in a Register Office, the couple might not know who will actually officiate at their marriage.

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, I do not think that the name of the celebrant / officiant is an essential matter that needs to be set out in advance.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The banns should be published in the jurisdiction where the marriage will take place.

Consultation Question 14:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

These rules are really no longer relevant.

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

I agree that the clergy should meet each of the couple separately to ensure that there is no duress. They should also be entitled to call for whatever documentary evidence they consider necessary, particularly to confirm that neither party is in a subsisting valid marriage/ civil partnership and that, if either party has been married previously, he/she has a divorce decree or a decree dissolving a civil partnership.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

I agree with this proposal.

Consultation Question 18:

all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it would be useful to have a separate civil preliminary for all weddings, followed by the religious marriage.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is extremely important that it is clear to the parties to the marriage that marriage has legal requirements.

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

it is important that religious weddings are carried out by a member of that religion and that registration officers play no part in the religious part of a religious wedding.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I see no need for more than one.

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There is no reason to change this,

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree, subject to the caveat that there should be a preliminary civil ceremony.

Please share your views below:

This is a matter to be decided by Parliament.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

An organisation with only 20 members should not be so entitled. I would suggest that the organisation should have at least 200 members in order to prevent "sham" organisations being set up to enable a particular marriage to take place where the so-called organisation is not a bona fide one.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Any organisation promoting unlawful purposes or purposes that are contrary to public policy should be expressly excluded from playing any role in a marriage.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

I agree that it would be sensible for religious organisations, and others if so enabled, to nominate an officiant by office. If those nominated are restricted to named individuals, there would be a problem if a named individual was transferred to another parish.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I agree.

Consultation Question 29:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not agree that independent officiants should be entitled to officiate at a marriage.

Marriage is an important legal ceremony with legal consequences and it is important that a marriage cannot be officiated at by any Tom, Dick or Harry.

The officiant at a marriage should be either a member of a religious organisation or non-religious belief organisation or a registrar. There should be no entitlement for any independent person.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, I would hope that all nominated officiants are indeed fit and proper persons.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not support independent officiants being permitted to play a role in a marriage.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As I have said already, I do not support allowing independent officiants to play any role in a marriage ceremony.

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

However, I think that this applies only to officiants from religious organisations and non-religious belief organisations and of course to registrars.

I do not think that independent officiants will be able to carry out the role with the dignity and solemnity that it requires. Being an officiant will turn into a money-making exercise by unscrupulous individuals advertising their particular "skills" to conduct a marriage ceremony. The whole subject would become very tawdry.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But again I am strongly opposed to any independent individuals being permitted to be officiants.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The GRO must have an overriding responsibility for this.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is very important, as a particular organisation might turn a blind eye to the shortcomings of a member of its organisation.

Consultation Question 39:



Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not support independent officiants playing any role but, if they are permitted to play a role, it is essential that the GRO can monitor them and de-authorise them where appropriate.

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I would not want them to be able to officiate in the first place.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I very strongly want the current words to be part of any marriage ceremony and for them to be spoken orally.

Parliament must legislate for the manner in which those who cannot speak can express their consent to the marriage and no doubt there is legislation already in place dealing with this.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The words of consent should continue as at present. The parties can add other aspects to the ceremony but the present words for consent should continue.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Subject to the words of consent remaining as they are at present.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

I think that this is a matter for the parties to the marriage to decide. However, if there is to be religious content, I do not see why a couple would not choose to have a religious ceremony instead of a civil ceremony, unless there is an impediment to prevent a religious ceremony, such as a divorced Anglican or Roman Catholic not being allowed to re-marry.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it would clarify the difference between a civil ceremony and a religious ceremony if all marriages had to have a civil ceremony first, with the couple deciding whether or not to have a religious ceremony afterwards. This is the position in most of continental Europe.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that all weddings take place with open doors or with public access.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings should continue to be legally permitted to take place in religious buildings, Registrars' offices and other places licensed to hold weddings.

It would be outrageous for a wedding to be legally permitted to take place "anywhere". This would totally undermine the legal status of marriage.

Please share your views below:

I do not think that any of the four suggested venues should be permitted to hold weddings, with or without limitations.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

If a venue is licensed to hold a wedding, it must be available to all.

Consultation Question 50:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Allowing this would lead to unscrupulous individuals promoting particular venues, probably for reward from the venue owner. The present provisions for licensing a venue must continue.

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not think that an officiant should be entitled to approve a venue.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should play no role in approving a venue.

Consultation Question 53:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should only be a licensing system in place to approve locations that frequently host weddings. Other venues should have to apply to be licensed on an ad hoc basis.

The officiant should play no role in this.

Please share your views below:

The current licensing process should continue.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current procedure of issuing a marriage certificate / civil partnership certificate after the ceremony should continue with the information on the certificate being as at present.

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I have no strong views on this.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Definitely not.

I sincerely hope that it is not intended to introduce electronic registration for births or deaths too.

Electronic registration would be a step too far.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is essential that the parties to the marriage sign the register if they are physically able to do so.

It is also essential that it continues to be a requirement that there must be two witnesses to a marriage.

A mistake in the document should be capable of rectification and should not in itself render the marriage void but a failure in either of the other two factors should render it void.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I think that it is important the the couple have cohabited after the marriage. Otherwise the marriage could be a sham.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current position leads to all kinds of confusion, with members of the public thinking that there is such a thing as a "common" law wife or husband. This leads to succession problems. The presumption should be abolished as it serves no useful purpose and leads to confusion.

If there is any doubt about the validity of a marriage, the couple should simply go to a register office with two witnesses to marry legally.

Consultation Question 60:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The lack of consent is a matter for the Courts to decide. There should not be a time limit.

Often the lack of consent is due to duress, either from the other party to the marriage or from a parent, A time limit would be unfair to the party who did not consent.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is for reasons like this that I am strongly against allowing lay individuals to be entitled to apply to be officiants.

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

This is a matter for Parliament.

Persons who have a terminal illness should be entitled to apply for a shorter notice period.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It should be the same validity period as a schedule issued to any other person. A terminally ill person is more likely to want to get married sooner rather than later.

Consultation Question 66:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Again, it should be the same period as for anyone else.

Consultation Question 67:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

1. I agree with this extension.
2. Except in extreme circumstances, it should not be possible for the civil preliminaries to take place remotely.
3. It is entirely ridiculous that a couple should be entitled to marry remotely.
4. All parties should sign the same document.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This too would be a step too far. A wedding should take place on land and in a building.

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This too is a step too far. A wedding should take place only in a building on land.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Definitely not.

Marriage is a solemn ceremony with legal consequences and it should not be allowed for a marriage to take place "just anywhere", which completely takes away from the solemnity of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I do not believe that couples should be permitted to marry in international waters.

Consultation Question 72:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I strongly oppose weddings on ships in international waters.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, I do not agree that such marriages should be permitted.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, such weddings should not be permitted at all.

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

I have never heard of any such demand.

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Again, such weddings should not be permitted to take place. To allow them would undermine the solemnity of the marriage ceremony.

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Such individuals should be treated compassionately.

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The current practice is fine.

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is a sensible proposal.

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is sensible.

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

It is important that weddings are carried out by a registration officer when it is not a religious or non-religious belief-holding wedding. In consequence the Local Authority should be entitled to charge for the officer's time.

Consultation Question 81:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Again, this is sensible.

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or

Please expand on your answer:

I have no strong views on this but agree that some element of compassion should apply to reduce the fee or perhaps eliminate it all together.

Consultation Question 84:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I am not in favour of officiants being authorised to carry out a wedding ceremony.

If they are to be authorised, the Registrar General should prescribe the fee for such authorisation, set to recover the costs of assessing the application.

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I think that the current law works well and does not need to be amended.

1. I do not believe that the current law discourages couples from getting married.
2. I do not believe that the Commission's provisional proposals will lead to an increase in the number of couples marrying legally.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I think that the current law works well.

With regard to no 5 above, it is essential that every couple who marries has a separate, legally recognised wedding.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

The current law works well.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

The current law works well.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

1. All venues should be approved formally by a registration officer.
2. It would be good for registration officers to be available to officiate at a wedding, to avoid the need for any independent officiants being permitted.

With regard to 3 and 4, I do not think that the ability of a venue to host a wedding or the business opportunities available to a venue play any role in the licensing of venues for weddings.

Marriage is a solemn ceremony and a deep commitment by the couple and the benefit to the venue is not relevant.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no knowledge of this impact.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

It is important that Local Authorities play a role in marriage and wedding, as they do at present.

#### Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1. I do not think that residents of England and Wales should be permitted to travel elsewhere to get married but I know that it happens. It is important that the necessary formalities are followed in England and Wales, so that a wedding overseas is legally recognised in England and Wales.

2. I am strongly opposed to residents of overseas jurisdictions travelling to England and Wales to get married. As a solicitor, I am aware that such marriages are often not recognised by the country in which they are resident, which leads to major problems, so such marriages should not be allowed to take place here.

There should obviously be special provisions in relation to Scotland and Northern Ireland, ie when residents of England and Wales want to get married in either Scotland or Northern Ireland or vice versa.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

What I said above applies here too. However, as I have said already, I do not approve of weddings being able to take place on ships.

#### Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no evidence about this but strongly object to weddings being able to take place on ships.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

As I said above applies here too.

The benefits to the UK ship register and maritime industry should be irrelevant in relation to marriages.

#### Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

I am not sufficiently aware of the costs involved to be able to comment meaningfully on this.



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFM8-9

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 19:44:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Christian Fellowship

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Married in Church

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

Reduced number of services.

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Residency is important as part of the community aspect of Marriage.

### Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

A personal interview is essential to ratify the authenticity of the lawful process of Marriage.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

A specified time for proper preparation and investigation on legal grounds would be at least 4 weeks. This would mean enquiries could be made properly, either by banns, certificate special license or Bishops licence.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

At least one face to face with both parties needs to be made and both parties sign a declaration of details in the presence of an authorised person so that any coercion might be identified and details agreed by both parties.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes so that probity might be established.

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

who would decide the risk of harm? Is this a step toward eradicating any check or balance on the institution of Marriage.

This could lead to a very private affair when Marriage is a Public Declaration of commitment of one man to one woman in a life long relationship within the local community. Marriage is supposed to be a strengthening of community.

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

A Lot can happen in 12 months. A shorter period would be more effective. The three months as it is now would be as good.

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants are already authorised and certified celebrants who may have problems in fulfilling the occasion but would have an agreeable alternative for the place of Celebration.

### Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Not imposed by Government nor the couple but agreed by all.

Please share your views below:

Not without consultation and agreement by couple and place of celebration.

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Banns read in the home parish of one of the couples where ever that may be reinforces the community aspect of Marriage. It is a means by which at least some check on the legality of the union is made.

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Banns should continue to be read in the Parish of both of the parties so maximum publicity of the plans might be established.

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes to both if there is a hint of possibility of coercion or malpractice.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes a public statement is for the good of them as individuals, as a couple and for the community into which they will play their part.  
A private declaration is good but a public declaration is essential.

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican preliminaries are considered legal by act of Parliament and should be seen as base line. Civil preliminaries seem to be less stringent.  
The Act of Marriage should be strengthened not eroded.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

status quo

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Churches should continue to offer a Faith orientated marriage service.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Status quo

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Staus quo

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

status quo

Please share your views below:

If an unusual group want to conduct marriage services they should have to apply and be constrained by current legal statutes.

Consultation Question 25:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Status quo

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

If the law of the land contradicts the statutes laid down in the Bible, the Bible must take precedent.

Public policy and morality has been and should always be contingent to the Judaeo Christian Faith as its bench mark and Canon.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

The Office of local Church Leader should be recognised as an officiant for the ceremony as well as any in that organisation or faith group who has been recognised as having the authority to conduct ceremonies in the locality.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Status quo?

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Independent officiants would detract from the Community aspect of the ceremony.

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Status quo

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

should not be independent

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The solemnity and value of the ceremony culturally and community wise must come before profit. Hotels should not be allowed to organise and officiate weddings on their own. Community is excluded.

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be independents.

Consultation Question 34:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If they are nominated by a religious or non religious organisation they cannot be independent.

Consultation Question 35:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

The 'Dignity and solemnity' of marriage must be by the Celebrant and the whole process of marriage and the place and process of the event. There needs to be a definition of 'dignity' and 'solemnity'.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Civil ceremonies yes but Faith ceremonies already have guidelines and 'proper's' in training for Ministry.

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Status quo.

Consultation Question 38:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What sort of standards would be set. If a celebrant refuses to conduct a same sex ceremony would the General Register Office then deem that person unfit?

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be independents.

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There should not be independents

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A person cannot be married if they are not present at the ceremony. A simple signature is not enough. It is a public declaration of intent to commit their lives to each other.

A defined set of declarations protect the couple and society and strengthen both. Making it up or saying nothing invalidates the whole reason for doing it. They might as well continue to live with each other as before.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a community event and so making up your own takes away from the seriousness and solemnity as well as the continuity of the process and event.

Secular themed weddings detract from the seriousness and solemnity of the occasion.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Status quo

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Why not.

Please share your views below:

Might as well have a church wedding.

The Civil ceremonies I have been to, seem to want to include religious content but without naming the God of Love.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There may be a need for a civil ceremony for legal reasons but wanting a religious service as well should not be prevented.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The ceremony is Public and community so it protects against forced marriage. Even today this is a problem in some places.

Marriage is a public not private matter.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a significant event and should be held in an appropriate place and not somewhere the couple want. It is a community event.

Please share your views below:

Non of these because they not special for a special purpose.

Marriage is special.

### Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Civil ceremonies should be public and special.

### Consultation Question 50:

Other

Other

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If a couple want a civil wedding then they can choose to go to the local recognised civil venue. Why would they want to have their ceremony in a Faith venue.

A couple who want a faith based ceremony would not want to go to a non faith based centre.

### Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This should be a community responsibility, which some councils have abdicated.

There is a need for a community based decision about Wedding venues as it is a community event, faith community or secular community.

### Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This is woolly. What is safe and dignified apart from what is now offered in Faith community buildings or Civic centres.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What is safe and dignified. Individuals can have very different ideas. Set places are more community and defined.

### Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

set places as now. No outdoors, hotels, swimming pools or McDonalds as venues. Civic centres and Faith buildings are dignified and safe.

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This is cohabitation not marriage. Marriage is a public declaration of the couples intent to commit themselves to each other for life.

Consultation Question 60:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:



special case on compassionate grounds is laudable.

Consultation Question 63:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

some sort of rapid certification should be applied.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

face to face declarations needed even if sometime later for it to be legalised.

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Should be local. Community.

Consultation Question 69:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Only in special circumstances where getting to local community is not possible.

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 72:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

compassion

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There is no need for this as civic centres and faith community buildings are already authorised.

Consultation Question 79:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No need for new wedding locations.

Consultation Question 80:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

No need for out of register office fee as ceremonies should be at the civic centre building.

Consultation Question 81:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Like what?

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

down to compassion

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The present law does not prevent couples getting married particularly if faith communities provide the service at cost or below.

Doubt whether the provisional proposals would make much difference to numbers considered legally married.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

some couples prefer a registry office ceremony. Usually done simply but well.

Approved other premises will throw up other issues- cost would be commercial.

The cost of marrying in a registered place of worship are well known, but vary by denominations and vision for the institution of Marriage of one man and one woman for life.

There is little need for any other alternates if you want to maintain the safety, seriousness and solemnity. Hopefully a once in a life time event so should be special and meaningful.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Register office ceremonies are known to be simple and reasonable.

Other sites including outdoors should not be advocated.

Some faith groups advocate a civil ceremony for the legal aspects and then provide a free service of a spiritual nature to follow to demonstrate and teach the true nature of Marriage as the Bible indicates.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Civic centres and faith establishments should be the normal places for weddings.

More money is spent on the wedding dress and the reception than the ceremony itself so business opportunities should be a by product and accessory to the ceremony.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Marriage should be within the community in which the couple are to live.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

local

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Local

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFV5-F

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 20:01:48

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Don't have an organisation.

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

Because although the consultation must be about your consideration of my views, and they certainly are not confidential, you haven't explained how you would use private information such as my name, email address and phone number.

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

## Chapter 4: Preliminaries

### Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This would make it easier for people to be forced into a marriage without their consent.

### Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

There must be time, at least a few weeks, for any who object on good grounds to the marriage to know of the proposal and to address it. A few days notice smacks of a 'shot-gun' wedding tactic that means people rush into marriage without due time to approach it with full consent and deliberation.

### Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

No, especially considering such examples you have given, there should be face to face interviews lest the marriage candidate is being coerced into it. This offers little protection to those with little enough protection as it is.

### Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Pardon? What is a relevant national? Shouldn't notice be given wherever notice is relevant to the couple getting married? Why is Scotland considered separately from England and Wales?

### Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Possibly, but who decides whether or not it would expose either to harm and how would it be advertised to those who do not use the Internet - why discriminate against them? Registry offices and their delegated authorities should be used.

### Consultation Question 10:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Not sure what you mean by schedule.

### Consultation Question 11:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The officiant and any substitute officiant should be a qualified, state appointed, marriage registrar.

### Consultation Question 12:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes if that person is a qualified registrar.

Please share your views below:

Pardon? What does that mean?

Consultation Question 13:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

If 'banns' are

'a notice read out on three successive Sundays in a parish church, announcing an intended marriage and giving the opportunity for objections', what does this proposal mean?

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Fell flexible but why not let Anglicans decide?

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes and yes - 'though your grammar is horrible.

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Yes, most emphatically.

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Both these should apply.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I thought that Anglican clergy were considered as marriage registration officers. I think anyone officiating at a wedding recognised by the state should be a state qualified marriage registration officer.

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

As long as whoever officiates is a state qualified marriage registrar, so not just anyone who fancies officiating for the day. Marriage is a serious commitment and should be treated with respect and conducted with dignity.

Consultation Question 24:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Too wide a description. Could be approving anything.

Please share your views below:

No, I think it must be state registrar or delegated church officiant.

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

No should not exclude religious organisations. Should always exclude anyone who promotes purposes that are unlawful etc.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Another vague question. Honestly. Yes religious organisations should be able to nominate officiants otherwise marriage should be conducted by a state qualified registrar.

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Of course the General Register Office should keep such oversight but see former answers because I don't think non-religious marriages should be conducted by anyone other than a state qualified registrar.

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But I don't believe non-religious marriages should be conducted by anyone other than a state qualified registrar. This is the sort of thing Mao did - make an unqualified person a surgeon because it is elitist to have the education and qualifications of a bona fide surgeon. Pity the patient, or in this case pity the marriage and the stability of society in general, children in particular.

Consultation Question 31:

Other

Please expand on your answer:



Absolutely not. They should be state qualified registrars.

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

There should always be a proper legal system where fees are involved.

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Pardon?

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But kindly expand on how you would see dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Consultation Question 36:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be registrars or clergy with delegated responsibility for registering marriage.

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should be the monitoring body.

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Officiants should be authorised by their status as qualified registrars or delegated clergy.

Consultation Question 41:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't believe in independent officiants. One has a strong feeling that you have already decided on the course of changes with or without this consultation. If a person fails to comply with such obligations in any walk of life they should have their authorisation removed. This is a really silly question.

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People should stand in front of witnesses and declare that they enter the marriage freely and without impediment.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Depending on the people and the officiant the marriage could take place in venues that do not uphold the dignity and solemnity of such a contract but pander to whim and whimsy. The venues must be approved by representatives of the General Registry Office if the marriages held there are to be endorsed by the state.

Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Religious groups take marriage very seriously and have done so for a long duration, Jews for thousand of years, the Anglicans and Quakers for hundreds. This is a very limited list, and I would prefer a more inclusive 'Christian' for Anglicans and all the Christian denominations you have excluded.

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Wholeheartedly yes.

Please share your views below:

Religious content means anything to do with God and his love for us. No limits necessary.

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why would you not want to allow a religious ceremony?

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Absolutely no. 'Open doors' requirement provides protection for those who may be coerced into marriage, acknowledges the importance of marriage in our society and maintains it as a cause of public concern and celebration.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would like to think that this question answers itself negatively. Any place makes a mockery of the solemnity of the occasion: could be a merry-go-round etc. Please, the venue should be approved by the General Register Office as one suitable to the dignity of the occasion.

outdoors,, on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,, in the air, and/or, in private homes.

Please share your views below:

Yes. It needs to be a place that is suitable to the occasion and can be accessed by the public, and certainly not in private homes behind closed doors or in frivolous outdoor spaces. This proposal sounds like Hollywood.

Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

People need to be protected from forced marriages and marriage is a matter of public interest and state approval. It would make marriage an activity without any solemnity at all.

Consultation Question 50:

No

Other

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

I don't believe anyone except a qualified registrar or a delegated member of religious clergy should conduct a wedding authorised by the state. I do not believe our state should stop religious weddings but accept that a civil wedding may also be required if it is to be recognised by the state. Why would anyone want to hold a non-religious wedding in a religious venue but why would you want to stop them if they did?

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Could be anywhere unsuitable especially if the officiant comes under pressure from those requesting the marriage. The General Register Office should approve locations not the officiant even if that person is a state registrar.

Consultation Question 52:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should ensure such things. The best locations for a civil service are already available in the local register offices. Receptions can be as whimsical as they like afterwards.

No

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should decide not the officiant.

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The General Register Office should approve the location.

Please share your views below:

Whatever is decided, the General Register Office should be responsible and the best place for the ceremony would be the local register office followed by whatever sort of reception, wherever and however the marriage party chooses.

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Always both languages for those who only read one of them.

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Both forms would do, but electronic registration alone is open to fraud.

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

These things should never happen and would be less likely to happen if all marriages were conducted by a state qualified registrar or delegated member of the clergy.

No

Please expand on your answer:

No marriage should go ahead in the first instance without witnesses, signed documents and registration.

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But again, should not happen with a registrar officiating.

Consultation Question 59:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Depends. If there was coercion or an unqualified officiant or for other reasons , each case you be examined to decide whether or not the marriage was valid.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is serious and should be an activity properly undertaken and recognised, and indeed encouraged, by the state and supported by society, not just a casual relationship.

Consultation Question 60:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes but every case should be examined and this again highlights the need for witnesses,' open doors' policy for the ceremony and full time beforehand for the marriage candidates to prepare and withdraw if necessary.

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

### Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

The approval of venue can be made by the General Register Office in such cases but all other conditions should apply.

### Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 64:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I don't know what this involves but seems that a 'schedule' is replacing a 'licence'. Would need to have this explained to me before making a comment.

### Consultation Question 65:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand.

### Consultation Question 66:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't understand why it should be 12 months.

### Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

#1 possibly as we are now experiencing such an emergency, but the other proposals are dreadful making a mockery of marriage. Remote weddings are open to fraud and coercion.

No

Please expand on your answer:

As answer above.

No

Please expand on your answer:

See above answers.

### Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 71:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Don't think it should be allowed in the first place. Why?

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

What is 'as soon as is reasonably possible'?

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

What services?

Consultation Question 82:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

All fees should be the same.

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

I do not believe the current law discourages people from wedding but really this area requires proper research and cannot be a matter of opinion or belief.

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Most of the costs of marrying concern the wedding reception. I have never heard of the cost of the wedding ceremony putting off anyone I know from getting married.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I find your proposals unnecessary given the flexibility in current arrangements for marriage and wonder why they are being made at all.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:



## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF49-H

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 20:13:17

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED] Church, [REDACTED]

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

In and of itself this proposal does not go far enough. Of course the officiant should have responsibility for upholding the dignity and solemnity of marriage in general, but specifically, should insist on conducting a dignified and solemn procedure in the case of each and every marriage ceremony at which he/she officiates. Thus he or she will be responsible for the tone and content of the liturgy recited, as well as the demeanour of the bride, groom, and guests during the legal part of the proceedings.

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Here are the very things which could seriously undermine the solemnity of the ceremony and indeed, deny that a serious commitment is being made. Since marriage is a public proclamation being made by two parties, each to the other, it is important that they appear together. Simply substituting a signed schedule fundamentally destabilizes a marriage commitment and may even beg the question of whether both parties were giving their assent freely and without coercion!

The public declaration also affirms the nature and purpose of the marriage ceremony which should be both visible to society and binding at law. The few formal words of betrothal currently in use can certainly be added to, according to individual taste, but should not be dispensed with if the true meaning of marriage is to be upheld.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal emphasizes the fundamental flaw exposed in Question 43 above; since both state and society have a vested interest in the commitment made at a marriage ceremony giving carte blanche to the couple to appear in whatever disguise they choose, and utter whatever words appeal to them, simply does not guarantee either solemnity or the dignity of the occasion. Let there be no confusion over what is pantomime and what is a serious commitment to a life long union.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Having been introduced centuries ago to discourage forced marriage - a blight on society even today - an open doors policy for marriage should be strongly maintained. Again, should this proposal be implemented, marriage as a public declaration would be significantly undermined.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Once again 'seriousness' and 'solemnity' could be put at risk should this proposal be placed on the statute books. While there may be some leeway for an extension of premises licensed to hold weddings, 'appropriate location' is the key here.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

'Safe and dignified' are quite slippery terms, what might be considered safe by a practitioner in extreme sport might not be regarded so by one who is risk averse. So it would be necessary to state exactly what is being defined by these terms. You might argue that if the entire ceremony, with all the invited guests being extreme sports enthusiasts, where would the harm be in holding the ceremony on a precipitous slope, but would this constitute a public wedding?

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF4U-D

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 20:20:42

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

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Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Currently churches can use registration officers to conduct weddings. This needs to continue to allow weddings to be conducted in all churches that wish to, even if they are churches that only have weddings occasionally.

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

'Contrary to public policy or morality' is too vague and could be used against those who are outside current public opinion. It is much better to be objective eg who encourage people to break certain laws eg terrorism.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This could lead to marriage being undermined as the serious commitment it is and those making a living from being paid to be marriage celebrants would have a financial pressure on them to agree to any form of marriage ceremony that the couple wishes.

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Marriage is a significant legal commitment to each other, using your own words could well make marriage less significant than it rightly is. There is a great deal of freedom within the proposals for many different types of marriage ceremony to take place, why can't the 'prescribed words' fit in to all these ceremonies? Having your own words and not words that all those getting married say is making out that marriage is a private act, not a public legal one.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It is far more important that couples fully understand the solemn commitment they are making than that it is individualized to them.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered



Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The principle of having an open door for a wedding shows that it is for the whole society, not a private event which is right as marriages affect society as a whole. This needs to be preserved. Keeping an open door policy could help to prevent illegal weddings eg bigamy or forced marriages.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

How will you ensure unsuitable venues do not hold weddings? Weddings need to be solemn and dignified, I fear this will no longer be the case.

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF4Z-J

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 20:24:59

### About you

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Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

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Personal response

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What is your email address?

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What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I am in a legal marriage

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

One or other should be resident in the registration district

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

seven days; or

Please expand on your answer:

Except in the case of one or other of the parties having a terminal illness, in which case the time period could be waived

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Only have remote interviews if it can't be in-person, due to unforeseen circumstances such as a pandemic

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Dignity and solemnity of marriage needs to be clearly defined. Marriage should not be undertaken lightly. It is intended to be for life, and in this way provides security to any children born. 'Dignity and solemnity' needs to reflect this.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

'Expression of consent'

It should not be possible for someone to get married without being present at the wedding ceremony. Simply signing the marriage schedule is inadequate.

The legal marriage ceremony should have some common wording. Not having these risks undermining the solemnity of the wedding ceremony and denying the seriousness of the commitment being made.

There is a large amount of flexibility as it is, so a few prescribed words that show that this is a marriage ceremony, with lifetime commitment is very reasonable.

A wedding is not just about the couple. The couple enter into a union which is understood by society and has been legally defined. Marriage is not a private matter.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As noted above, marriage and its ceremony is a seriousness and solemnity act, albeit a happy occasion. A particular ceremony should not just be allowed because the couple wants it, but because it is appropriate for such a significant event.

As noted above, a wedding is a public declaration in which society and the state have an interest.

While the couple's and the guests dress can be themed, the ceremony itself should have common wording.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Some couples will want to include religious content, but may not belong to a church or other religious group or the group they belong to doesn't have their own building, for example.

Please share your views below:

Recognising that they are being married in God's presence

Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The couple would be legally married at the civil wedding ceremony, but could have a religious service afterwards.

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The "open doors" requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations and was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society.

Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A marriage ceremony is a serious and solemn act. Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Obviously, it is good to have wide variety of appropriate venues, for example, for churches who do not own their own building.

The 'safe and dignified' test for the venue needs to be clear.

Please share your views below:

How would venues be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms need to be defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Venues such natural surroundings (like forests, lakes, mountains etc.) lend themselves to engendering a sense of awe. MacDonalds would not, in my view.

Weddings should only be conducted in private homes if one person is terminally ill or has a disability preventing them from leaving their house.

### Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 50:

No

No

No

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 51:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

But the officiant should be given detailed guidance

### Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

There is a lack of clarity in how venues would be tested for “dignity” and “safety”. While the proposals call for guidance from the General Register Office, the terms are not defined and stringent safeguards should be proposed.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Detailed guidance should be given to officiants

### Consultation Question 53:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

The General Register Office should approve wedding locations

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 10: Validity and offences

Consultation Question 57:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 58:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 59:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

There may be instances where one partner has to serve in the armed forces straight after the wedding.

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 60:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Hopefully this would help get people out of forced marriages

Consultation Question 61:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

Consent is key here.



Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consent needs to be confirmed.

Consultation Question 64:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Only in an emergency

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Open to abuse

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 69:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

No

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I don't think people should marry on ships

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

As above

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 74:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF42-A

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 20:26:58

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

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If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

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Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 5:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 6:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

I would suggest that interviews should be in person as there is little guarantee of the identity of remote participants

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 9:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 10:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 11:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 12:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 13:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 14:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 18:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 24:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 28:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 34:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 35:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 36:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 37:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

There seems too many points embedded in one question.

I don't mind point 1, that seems a formality, which obviously needs to be verified at some point, but it doesn't seem important to state that at the time of the wedding.

I don't agree with the rest of the points.

This change seems to open the door for any form of ceremony, which would trivialize the importance of marriage.

For me it's very important that the expression of will is expressed in front of the public audience, as marriage is an act in front of society and not just a private contract.

I don't mind

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Weddings are a public ceremony, and should not be trivialized. If the spouses want to have an eccentric party to celebrate that's their choice, but the actual ceremony should not become a circus

### Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

### Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 47:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I would need more constraints to this statement before I could support it. It is too open in its current form. Certainly I wouldn't support a wedding that takes place underwater or some extravagant place just for the show.

Please share your views below:

The venue should be conducive to the seriousness of the ceremony. I don't see how marrying in the air would allow that.

I would be against any venue that turn the wedding ceremony into a stunt show



Consultation Question 49:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YFGW-2

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 20:40:39

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

[REDACTED]

Church of England

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 1: Introduction

Consultation Question 1:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 2:

Please share your views below:

My wife and I hesitated before committing to marriage not so much because of the legal barriers but in respect for deeply held Christian belief that marriage is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 3:

Please share your views below:

As a [REDACTED] vicar, I was due to provide pastoral care and conduct weddings for ten couples in 2020 but gradually every couple decided to postpone until 2021. This is understandable because of the health risk but the way the Government insisted on locking church doors during March to June was "over the top". Their constantly changing rules and over-use of lockdown has arguably caused more harm (mental and economic) than the virus itself!

#### Chapter 4: Preliminaries

Consultation Question 4:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 5:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 6:

another period of time.

Please expand on your answer:

At least SIX MONTHS - otherwise this proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 7:

Please share your views below:

Interviews should be conducted in person in the physical presence of one another since remote interviews risk trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 8:

Please share your views below:

Yes, please continue if that's the current tradition.

Consultation Question 9:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Yes, but there should be a legal requirement for banns to still be called in parish churches. In this way couples who choose a Christian wedding enjoy the experience of public affirmation before their wedding day and there's always a chance of spotting a bigamist in advance.

Consultation Question 10:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

12 months is reasonable

Consultation Question 11:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

This strikes a balance between prescriptive and flexibility

Consultation Question 12:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

makes good sense so long as accredited in a church wedding context

Please share your views below:

what do you means by other circumstances?

Consultation Question 13:

No

Please expand on your answer:

why change?

Consultation Question 14:

No

Please expand on your answer:

why change?

Consultation Question 15:

Please share your views below:

Disagree... with the Bishop's permission banns should be called anywhere within a Benefice of parish churches whilst trying to respect the couples preferences

Consultation Question 16:

Please share your views below:

Yes! this practice has served well over many decades so why change it?

Consultation Question 17:

Please share your views below:

One should be sufficient as is the current practice

Consultation Question 18:

Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales;  
or

Please expand on your answer:

Anglican preliminaries ensure that marriage is understood as an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Preliminaries also ensure the couple understand this is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

## Chapter 5: Officiants

Consultation Question 19:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 20:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 21:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 22:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 23:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

This needs careful consideration

Consultation Question 24:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 25:

No

Please expand on your answer:

20 members is far too small. This means a weird cult would be able to perform a ceremony which could trivialise marriage and fail to recognise that marriage is traditionally an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 26:

Please share your views below:

Yes, exclude all those religious organisations that are opposed to marriage as an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman.

Consultation Question 27:

Please share your views below:

This needs further research

Consultation Question 28:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 29:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 30:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 31:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 32:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 33:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

I would prefer the Govt to specify broad band of fees (max and min) to be reviewed annually

Consultation Question 34:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Common sense!

Consultation Question 35:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Its also important that officiants create an atmosphere which is solemn and dignified. These values need to be embedded in the ceremony and not just as lip service. For example, this would exclude ceremonies underwater, bungee and parachute jumps.

Consultation Question 36:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

... although consultation and agreement is necessary with the Church of England if any changes are proposed to the ceremony and liturgy

Consultation Question 37:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 38:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 39:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 40:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 41:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

### Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

The Church has a long list of relatives who must not marry to avoid incest and propagation of defective genetic material. These requirements should be maintained and respected.

Marriage is about joining community and not just the couple doing thrown thing. Therefore, the order of service must reflect the community's beliefs about what the word "marriage" actually means.

The existing CofE service has certain fixed items but plenty of scope for personalising as well.

The couple must be physically present and not just casually signing papers remotely.

### Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Marriage is not a theatrical fantasy (a vicar friend once had a couple turn up as Robin Hood and Maid Marion) but is about commitment as real people to a serious relationship to be lived out in the context of the home community.

### Consultation Question 44:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

### Consultation Question 45:

No

Please expand on your answer:

It takes years of training for a CofE vicar to conduct a Christian wedding ceremony and I've seen too many secular officiants messing up funerals by a "mix and match" approach. We really don't want this in weddings as well.

Please share your views below:

None! If couples want religion they should go to a religious building and have an ordained leader perform the ceremony so that its done decently an in order.

### Consultation Question 46:

No

Please expand on your answer:

What is the justification for this proposal?

### Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Closed doors are a barrier to entry and all weddings should be conducted in the public gaze

## Chapter 7: Location

### Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation. Some places provide more dignity than others eg. a church is quieter and more peaceful than a pig slaughterhouse!

Please share your views below:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 49:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

No

Yes

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Strong willed couples would be capable of bullying weak officiants into having a very inappropriate location which would set a dangerous precedent. This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 52:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

The venue must convey a strong sense of marriage as an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Much clearer definition of terms is required first eg. "safe" and "dignified"

Consultation Question 53:

No

Please expand on your answer:

See my previous answer. We must avoid trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Please share your views below:

Parish churches and other such religious buildings should be pre-approved but caution is needed

## Chapter 8: Registration

Consultation Question 54:



Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 55:

No

Please expand on your answer:

I prefer English and Welsh

Consultation Question 56:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Electronic registration is open to hacking and other forms of abuse

## Chapter 11: Special types of wedding

Consultation Question 62:

Please share your views below:

No problems so far as I'm aware.

Consultation Question 63:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 64:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 65:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 66:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 67:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Please define "artist of death" surely we are all going to die, its just a matter of when

Consultation Question 68:

No

Please expand on your answer:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 69:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 70:

Please share your views below:

yes, provided the definition of "vessel" is reasonable eg. not a canoe!

Consultation Question 71:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Why not give the name?

Consultation Question 72:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 73:

Please share your views below:

It only ever happens in 1960s films!

Consultation Question 74:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Specify a time otherwise "as a reasonably possible" will need definition

## Chapter 12: Fees

Consultation Question 75:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 76:

(2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 77:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 78:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 79:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 80:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 81:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 82:

Other

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 83:

(2) there should be no fee.

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 84:

Yes

Please expand on your answer:

## Chapter 13: The potential impact of our proposals

Consultation Question 85:

Please share your views below:

The current law encourages couples to get married without making it so easy as to be a joke

Consultation Question 86:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

1 - Fair costs

2 - these costs are fair

3 - excellent value for money

4 - not relevant

5 - acceptable

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 87:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms. :

This proposal risks trivialising marriage which is an exclusive and lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. Its is a serious commitment: not just a legally binding contract but also a way of honouring God our Creator. Marriage and family life is a building block for the rest of the community and the nation.

Consultation Question 88:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no relevant knowledge

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no relevant knowledge

Consultation Question 89:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I don't know

Consultation Question 90:

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

I have no idea

Please share your views below. If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.:

?

Consultation Question 91:

Please share your views below:

This is a very long survey and I'm running out of time and energy

## Response ID ANON-5GTU-YF4F-X

Submitted to Law Commission consultation on weddings law  
Submitted on 2020-12-29 20:46:30

### About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Enter the name of your organisation:

Are you responding to this consultation in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation?

Personal response

If other, please state::

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number?

Telephone number:

[REDACTED]

If you want the information that you provide in response to this consultation to be treated as confidential, please explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. As explained in our privacy notice, we will take full account of your explanation but cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Please tell us why you regard the information as confidential:

### Chapter 6: The wedding ceremony

Consultation Question 42:

No

Please expand on your answer:

A wedding is a sacred and special occasion. These measures undermine its solemnity and seriousness. Oral vows should always be given. The new measures permit someone to be married without even being present! This is ridiculous.

Consultation Question 43:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Permitting people to devise their own ceremony and wording with no restriction undermines the idea that a marriage is a long-term and binding arrangement. It is not very much to ask that some specific phrases are used to show that both people freely consent to the lifetime commitment they are entering into.

Consultation Question 44:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 45:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below:

Consultation Question 46:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 47:

No

Please expand on your answer:

The “open doors” requirement helps convey the public nature of wedding declarations.

The open doors requirement was introduced hundreds of years ago as a protection against forced marriage. This is still a problem in our society. Removing the requirement encourages a false perception that marriage is a private matter without any public significance.

## Chapter 7: Location

Consultation Question 48:

No

Please expand on your answer:

Venues should not simply be allowed because marrying couples want them, but because they are appropriate places to hold such a significant ceremony.

Please share your views below:

Unofficial wedding ceremonies have taken place in an S&M dungeon, underwater, and at a Comic Book convention with a couple dressed as comic book heroes. It would be completely incompatible with the dignity of marriage for venues like these to host legal weddings.

Consultation Question 49:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 50:

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 51:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 52:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Consultation Question 53:

Not Answered

Please expand on your answer:

Please share your views below: